

## THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM



What does Baptism do for us?

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

What is God's promise?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Acts 2:38, Repent and be *baptized*, **everyone** of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your *sins may be forgiven*.

Acts 22:6, Be *baptized* and wash away your sins.

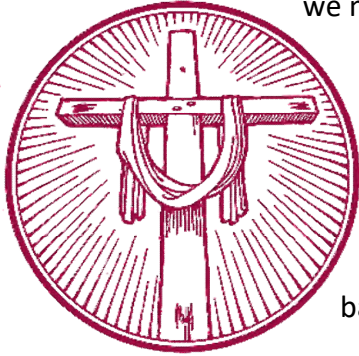
Romans 6:3, Don't you know that **all** of us who were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were baptized into *his death*?

1 Peter 3:20-21, In it (Noah's ark) only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes **baptism** that now **saves you** also – not through the removal of dirt from the body but *the pledge of a good conscience* toward God. It **saves you by the resurrection of Christ**.



Galatians 3:27 **All of you** who were **baptized** into Christ have been *clothed with Christ*.

Titus 3:5-7. **He saved** us through the *washing of rebirth and renewal* by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us **generously** through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been *justified by His grace*, we might become *heirs having the hope* of eternal life.



**Note again the emphasis in Acts 2 that baptism is intended *for all of you*.**

**Talk\_About\_It:** The significance of the second half the promise in Mark 16, that baptism is mentioned in the first part of this promise (believe and is baptized is saved) but not mentioned in the second part (not believe is damned).

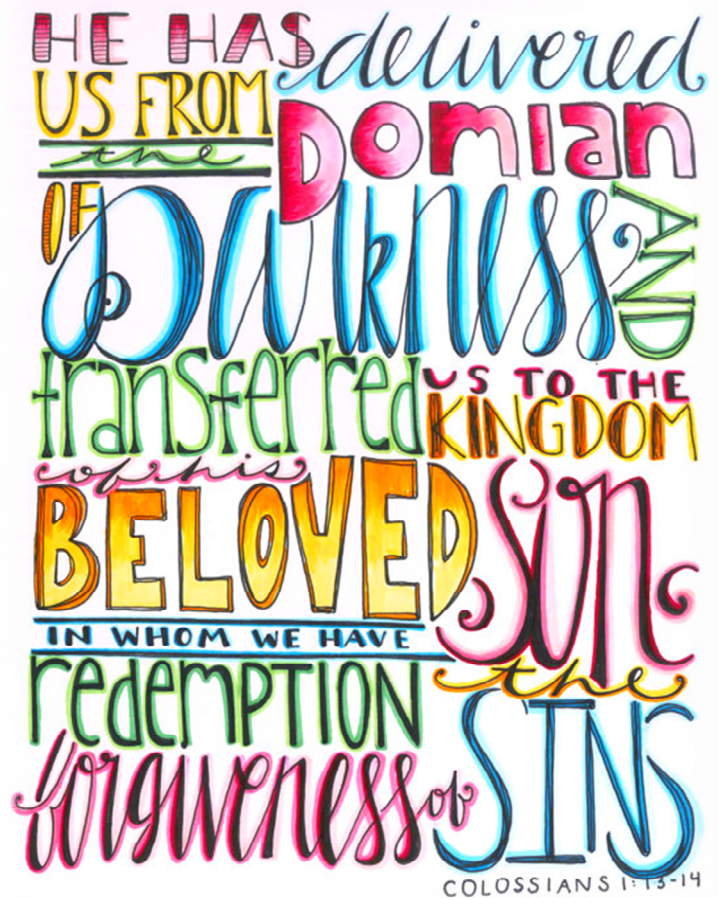
What confidence, hope and comfort are mine knowing that I have been baptized?

Why might some believers frame it and put their baptismal certificate in a prominent place”?

“Therefore state it most simply thus, that the power, work, profit, fruit, and end of Baptism is this, namely, to save. For no one is baptized in order that he may become a prince, but, as the words declare, that he be saved. But to be saved, we know, is nothing else than to be delivered from sin, death, and the devil, and to enter into the kingdom of Christ, and to live with Him forever.” (Luther’s Large Catechism)

“Here you see again how highly and precious we should esteem Baptism, because in it we obtain such an unspeakable treasure.” (Luther’s Large Catechism)

“Thus **faith** clings to the water, and believes that it is Baptism, in which there is pure salvation and life; not through the water (as we have sufficiently stated), but through the fact that it is embodied in **the Word and institution of God, and the name of God** inherent in it.” (Luther’s Large Catechism)



## THE POWER OF BAPTISM

How can water do such great things?

It is certainly not the water that does such great things, but God's Word which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.

For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism. God's Word makes it a washing through which God graciously forgives our sin and grants us rebirth and a new life through the Holy Spirit.

Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."



John 3:5, Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter** the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38, Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your *sins* may be **forgiven**. And you will receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children.

Ephesians 5:25, 26, Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to **make her holy**, cleansing her by the **washing with the water through the word**.

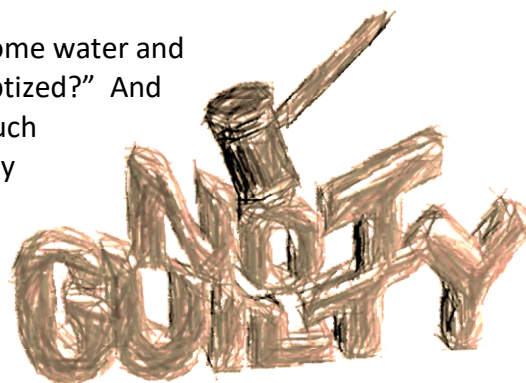
1 Peter 1:23, You have been **born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.





Titus 3:5,7 **He saved us** through the washing of rebirth and *renewal by the Holy Spirit....* So that, having **been justified** by His grace, we might become *heirs* having the *hope* of eternal life.

Acts 8:36-39 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again but went on his way rejoicing.



**The promises of baptism** come from \_\_\_\_\_?

**In whom** does the power of Baptism lie?

How does the **WHO** of my baptism comfort me and strengthen my faith?

"Thus you see plainly that there is here no work done by us, but a treasure which He gives us, and which faith apprehends; just as the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross is not a work, but a treasure comprehended in the Word, and offered to us and received by faith." (Luther's Large Catechism)

"Thus we must regard Baptism and make it profitable to ourselves, that when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say: Nevertheless I am baptized; but if I am baptized, it is promised me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body." (Luther's Large Catechism)

### S U M M A R Y

Who receives the blessing of baptism?

How is my blessing of baptism received?

What *is not* the power of baptism?

Who give the power of baptism?

How do I "treasure" my baptism?

