

Getting to Know Jesus- Adult Bible Discovery Guide- May 10, 2020

Welcome to Adult Bible Study for this week. Today we will finish up our time looking at the sacrament of Baptism. This study has been crafted for you to do individually or in a small group with your family. You may need an Internet connection to do this study.

If you did not participate in the last few weeks, you can find the lessons on the Bethany website under Bible Discovery Resources: (www.bethanylutheran.org). You may also need an Internet connection to complete all the parts of this study. The last few weeks we have been looking at the questions and answers section of Luther's Small Catechism published by Concordia Publishing House in 2017.

Luther's Flood Prayer: *Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, prefiguring this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood, and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold [us] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [us] with true faith by the Holy Spirit that through this saving flood all sin in [us] which has been inherited from Adam and which [we have] committed since would be drowned and die. Grant that [we] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, [we] would be declared worthy of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

From Luther's Small Catechism:

The Nature of Baptism

Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six, "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life."

(Romans 6:4)

The Central Thought- Baptism embraces our entire lives as believers. It means death to all our selfishness and sin and that God is making new people out of us. Baptism sets the rhythm for our daily lives as Christians.

For you to answer:

- *How do people today try to make themselves new?*

Read- Romans 6:1-14

For you to answer:

- *What happened to us in baptism?*
- *What does baptism mean for our lives?*
- *How is dying and rising again a good way to understand baptism?*
- *How is baptism connected to Easter?*
- *How do we drown our sins and evil desires?*
- *What kind of new person ("new man" or "new creation") is God making out of me?*

As Christians we confess, “I am baptized—and now I have a daily battle, confessing my sins and drowning them, and also living the new life according to God’s goodness and love.”

A Closer Reading of the Small Catechism

What is the old Adam?

Answer: The old Adam (sometimes called the “old man” or the “old self”) refers to us a fallen creatures. We have inherited a complete and total corruption of our created nature from Adam, which results in unbelief and rebellion against the creator.

Text to consider: Ephesians 4:22

What is the new man?

Answer: The new man refers to us as restored creatures of God in Christ. We have been united with Christ by the washing of rebirth, which results in new, Spirit-created attitudes, desires and actions.

Text to consider: 2 Corinthians 5:17

How do the old Adam and the new man interact?

Answer: They are engaged in an ongoing life-and-death struggle with each other.

Text to consider: Galatians 5:17

How does Baptism picture what the Christian’s daily life should look like?

Answer: In the waters of Baptism, we have been buried and raised with Christ. Therefore, we should continually resist every impulse of the old Adam until he is drowned once and for all when we die. At the same time, we should continually give free reign to the new man until he rises in final victory on the Last Day.

Texts to consider: Romans 6:3-4; Ephesians 4:24; Galatians 2:20

NOTE: When infants were baptized in Luther’s day, they were dipped down into the water and then raised up out of it, providing a vivid picture of the daily drowning to sin and rising to new life that Baptism signifies—and actually is.

Read Colossians 3:1-10

- Notice how this text describes our new life in Christ.
- Luther writes, “*When Christians are baptized, they give ear to the Gospel, read Holy Scripture, partake of Holy Communion, and love their neighbor.*” (LW 22:197)

What words do we use to remember our Baptism?

Answer: We remember our Baptism with the words, “*in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*” (Matthew 28:19) each time we experience the Trinitarian invocation at the beginning of worship, in the prayers of the church, or any other time in worship that we call upon God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we hear these words we recall and confess before heaven, earth, and hell itself, all that God has given to us in our Baptism:

- Victory over death and the devil (see **Romans 6:3-6**)
- Forgiveness of sin (see **Acts 2:38**)

- God's grace (see **Titus 3:5-6**)
- All that Christ and the Holy Spirit have (see **1 Corinthians 6:11**)

NOTE: When we hear the words from Matthew 28:19 it may be accompanied by the sign of the cross as we remember our own Baptism and how that cross was made upon our forehead and heart to mark us as ones who were redeemed by Christ the crucified.

How do we rightly use our Baptism?

Answer: We rightly use our Baptism when we live in repentance and faith in the triune God, who has made us His beloved children. *"In this way one sees what a great, excellent thing Baptism is. It delivers us from the devil's jaws and makes us God's own. It suppresses and takes away sin and then daily strengthens the new man. It is working and always continues working until we pass from this estate of misery to eternal glory."* (Luther's Large Catechism IV 83)

I wrote the following last week and if you spent some time with this hymn you can forgo this part, or you may want to do this again: Hymns and Songs have been used for centuries to help express the faith we hold. Once great example of the connection between faith and Baptism is the hymn *"God's Own Child I Gladly Say It"* written by Erdmann Neumeister who was a German Lutheran pastor in the late 17th and early 18th century. The text was translated into English by Robert E. Voelker and is in the Lutheran Service book (#594). The text expressed the sure and certain truth of Baptism and faith. I would encourage you to watch this video of this hymn and sing along with the text: <https://youtu.be/ULrYskFmuFg>

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Stanza 1

*God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!*

Stanza 2

*Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me, since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?*

Stanza 3

*Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, all your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!*

Stanza 4

*Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.*

Stanza 5

*There is nothing worth comparing to this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!*