

God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 15: A Humanitarian by Giving Us Baptism

In the last chapter, we learned that God is loving by not hiding the news of Jesus. We learned that he is loving by making that good news known through the Gospel. It is through the Gospel (the Good News of what Jesus has done to save us) that we are called to faith and kept in that faith.

God gives us his Gospel in two ways: the Gospel in the Word and the Gospel in the Sacraments. This morning we see how God has given us his Gospel in the Sacrament of Baptism.

.....what did you learn from chapter 15?

1. What does the word baptism mean?

✦ Mark 7:3-4. ³ The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Meaning #1: The Jews had many ceremonial washings to keep themselves “clean”. They washed their dishes, their hands, their feet in order to be ceremonially clean. The very basic meaning of the word baptizo is to wash.

Matthew 28:19-20. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Meaning #2: God’s Sacrament of washing with water in which he saves us through the Holy Spirit.

2. How do these passages talk about Baptism?

John 3:5. ⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Titus 3:5-6. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Baptism saves us

3. In Baptism, what does God promise to do?

✦ Galatians 3:26-27. ²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

✦ Numbers 6:27. ²⁷ “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

A. What does God do for us? **He claims us as his own, he adopts us into his family and makes us heirs of eternal life**

✦ 1 Corinthians 12:13. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

B. What does God graciously give to us?

He sends us the Holy Spirit, gives us the Holy Spirit to work faith in our hearts

✦ Acts 2:38. ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C: What happens to our sins?

At our baptism, our sins are forgiven

✦ 1 Peter 3:20-21. who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

D: This is one of the tough passages of the Bible, however, its easier if we look at the two comparisons that Peter is making.

1.

➤ What did the waters of the flood cleanse the world from? **From sin which had run rampant in the world**

➤ What do the waters of Baptism cleanse us from? **From the sin which wants to run rampant inside of us**

2.

➤ Who did the waters of the flood save and what did they save them from?

Noah, from sin and unbelief

➤ Who does the water of Baptism save and what does it save from?

It saves us from the sins that would bring us to unbelief and hell

✦ Matthew 28:19-20. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

E. Who commands baptism? **Jesus commands us to baptize**

4. Who should be baptized?

✦ Matthew 28:19. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

A. Is there any exclusions from this command? **There are no exclusions, in fact all nations is very inclusive of all types and kinds of people**

✦ John 3:5-6. ⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

B. Are there any exclusions from Jesus' words? **No, all people are sinners who need the blessings of baptism**

5. Do babies need baptism?

1. Genesis 5:3. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

2. Psalm 50:15. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

A. What do we know about anyone who is born? **They are born in sin**

➤ What is original sin? **It is the sin that we are all born with, that is inherited from our ancestors**

➤ What do we know about actual sin (thoughts, words, and deeds)? **We are all sinful. No matter how hard we try, we sin every day.**

3. Acts 2:38. ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. 1 Peter 3:21, 22. Baptism that now saves you also. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

5. Mark 16:16. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

B: What does God say happens when a sinner is baptized? **Baptism saves.....**

6. Matthew 28:19,20. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

C. What is Jesus' command about baptism? **Do it. Baptize**

7. Ephesians 2: 8,9. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

D: Who creates and strengthens faith? Is faith a matter of understanding?

It is God who creates and strengthens faith, It is he who works this miracle in the hearts of anyone who is baptized

8. What benefit does baptism bring to a person who already believes in Jesus?

Matthew 28:19-20. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

We baptize and teach. The Holy Spirit builds in us the desire and the wanting to grow in the world and he helps us by building us up in that Word

✦ Acts 8:35-39. ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ 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 Spirit works through baptism to strengthen faith

9. Agree or Disagree: A person can be saved without baptism.

Yes..... the same promises and blessings are in the Word that are in baptism. A person could come to faith, die and go to heaven without being baptized.

10. Agree or Disagree: It doesn’t matter whether a person is baptized. **Disagree, we cannot just choose to disregard what Jesus has commanded. Under all normal and ordinary circumstances a Christian will be baptized in a timely and efficient manner.**

11. How can focusing on our baptism help us on a daily basis?

✦ Isaiah 54:10. Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

We can have peace knowing our forgiveness and salvation are already assured.

✦ Romans 6:4. 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 live a new life.

We have something to look forward to in heaven.

12. How does our baptism demonstrate God as the Ultimate Humanitarian?

God makes it possible for any and all people to be saved

Assignment: Please read Chapter 16 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*