

WORSHIP GUIDE

WHY DOES THE OPC BAPTIZE INFANTS? PART 9

LAST WEEK, we finished Step 4 in the five-step explanation of why it is that we baptize infants. You can take a look at the previous weeks to find the outline of all five steps. As a reminder, you can find this as a free pdf on the OPC website, opc.org.

By way of review, Step 1: “Kind of like a caterpillar and a butterfly, the church of the Old Testament and the church of the New Testament are quite different in *form*, but they’re the same in *essence*.” Step 2: “God regards the children of believers as members of this church.” Step 3: “In the Old Testament era, the children of believers, because they were church members, were given the covenant sign of circumcision.” and Step 4: “In the New Testament era, God has taken the sign of circumcision and changed it to baptism.”

This week, we begin Step 5: “Therefore, in the New Testament era, the children of believers, because they are church members, are to be given the sign of baptism.”

What follows is from *Why Does the OPC Baptize Infants?*:

Because (1) the church of the Old Testament and the church of the New Testament are in essence the same church, and because (2) God regards the children of believers as members of this church, and because (3) in the Old Testament, the children of believers, since they were church members, were given the sign of circumcision, and because (4) in the New Testament era, God has taken the sign of circumcision and changed it to baptism, it follows logically that (5) today, in the New Testament era, the children of believers, because they are church members, are to be given the sign of baptism.

“This argument *seems* to make sense,” someone might object, “but doesn’t our Lord clearly invalidate it in *Mark 16:16* - ‘Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved’? Doesn’t he teach that faith has to come before baptism? Since infants are incapable of exercising faith, they should not be baptized.”

Well, we do believe that Mark 16:16 is God’s Word (although most modern translations omit it because it is not found in the earliest extant manuscripts) and that we must submit to all of God’s words. Why then doesn’t this objection persuade us?

First, note that this objection would also militate against infant circumcision. In effect, God told Abraham to believe and be circumcised. Personal faith was just as necessary for salvation in the Old Testament as it is in the New. Adult converts to Judaism had to believe first and then be circumcised. And yet, God himself commanded infant circumcision!

Second, we can see that this objection must be wrong because it proves too much. The fundamental argument is that because infants cannot believe, they cannot be baptized. If, however, we apply the same logic to the rest of the verse, we are forced to conclude that because infants cannot believe, they cannot be saved, either. If this objection were true, it would not only keep infants from baptism, but also keep them from heaven. But that would be unscriptural.

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” - Luke 18:16

Sermon Notes

Guest Minister, Rev. D. Leonard Gulstrom

And Let Him Who Thirsts Come!

Revelation 22:12-22

Christ opens His heart to His people after His ascension into heaven.

I. By Fulfilling His Promises to Us

II. By Giving His Word to Us

Coming Up:

10/8/23 PM Service:

Guest Minister, Rev. D. Leonard Gulstrom

Zophar’s Deceptive Offer

Job 11

10/15/23 AM Service:

Reject or Follow the Son of Man

The Worth of Worldly Wealth

Luke 18:18-30

Church Officers

Session:

Armor.Session@gmail.com

Gary Goeddertz, ruling elder
Jonathan Bergmann, ruling elder
LeRoy Osborn, ruling elder, clerk
Jonathan Hunt, teaching elder, moderator
Aaron Masters, elder nominee

Diaconate:

Armor.Deacons@gmail.com

Rick Hunt
Caleb Henning, clerk
Rick Weber, moderator
Jonathan Rogers, diaconal treasurer



The Lord’s Day Morning

Sunday, October 08, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

The Reverend Mr. D. Leonard Gulstrom, *Presiding*

Ruling Elder Mr. Jonathan Bergmann, *Assisting*

The Silent Preparation

The Announcements

The Greeting and Call to Worship

Psalm 99:9

* **The Hymn of Praise**

There is a Fountain

see bulletin

* **The Prayer of Invocation and Adoration**

* **The Reading of the Law and Confession of Sin**

Deuteronomy 5:19; Leviticus 19:11-14, 35-37; 1 Kings 8:38-40

see bulletin

* **The Gospel Promise**

Isaiah 26:3-4

see bulletin

* **The Response of Thanksgiving**

Psalm 75:1

see bulletin

* **The Doxology**

* **The Pastoral Prayer**

The Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 21:1-15

The New Testament Reading

Matthew 27:62-66

* **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

* **The Worship of God with Our Offerings**

* **The Psalms of Preparation**

Psalm 30:1-12 - *O LORD, I Will Exalt You*

Psalm 30B

Psalm 119:105-112 - *Your Word’s a Lamp*

Psalm 119N

The Prayer of Illumination

The Preaching of God’s Word

Guest Minister, Rev. D. Leonard Gulstrom

And Let Him Who Thirsts Come!

Revelation 22:12-22

* **The Prayer of Application**

* **The Song of Response**

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners

see bulletin

* **The Benediction**

* **The Gloria Patri**

* — Please stand as you are able. Following Scriptural principle for public prayer (Neh. 9:2-4, 2 Chron. 20:5-13; Mark 11:25), we follow in the footsteps of the early church and our Presbyterian heritage in standing for most of the public prayers.

There Is a Fountain

1. There is a fountain filled with blood
 2. The dying thief rejoiced to see
 3. E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
 4. Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood

drawn from Em-ma-nuel's veins, And sin-ners plunged
 that fountain in his day, And there had I,
 Thy flowing wounds sup-ply, Re-deem-ing love
 shall nev-er lose its pow'r, Till all the ran-

be-neath that flood lose all their guilt-y stains:
 though vile as he, my sins all washed a-way:
 has been my theme, and shall be till I die:
 some church of God be saved to sin no more:

Lose all their guilt-y stains,
 My sins all washed a-way,
 And shall be till I die,
 Be saved to sin no more,

lose all their guilt-y stains; And sin-ners plunged
 my sins all washed a-way; And there had I,
 and shall be till I die; Re-deem-ing love
 be saved to sin no more; Till all the ran-

be-neath that flood lose all their guilt-y stains.
 though vile as he, my sins all washed a-way.
 has been my theme, and shall be till I die.
 some church of God be saved to sin no more.

The Reading of the Law

Deuteronomy 5:19; Leviticus 19:11-14, 35-37

And you shall not steal.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity. You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the LORD.

The Confession of Sin

1 Kings 8:38-40

Whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.

The Gospel Promise

Isaiah 26:3-4

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

The Response of Thanksgiving

Psalms 75:1

We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners

1. Je - sus! what a Friend for sin - ners!
 2. Je - sus! what a Strength in weak - ness!
 3. Je - sus! what a Help in sor - row!
 4. Je - sus! what a Guide and Keep - er!
 5. Je - sus! I do now re - ceive Him,

Je - sus! Lov - er of my soul;
 Let me hide my - self in Him.
 While the bil - lows o'er me roll,
 While the tem - pest still is high,
 More than all in Him I find.

Friends may fail me, foes as - sail me,
 Tempt - ed, tried, and some - times fail - ing,
 E - ven when my heart is break - ing,
 Storms a - bout me, night o'er - takes me,
 He hath grant - ed me for - give - ness,

He, my Sav - ior, makes me whole.
 He, my Strength, my vic - t'ry wins.
 He, my Com - fort, helps my soul.
 He, my Pi - lot, hears my cry.
 I am His, and He is mine.

Refrain
 Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Savior! Hal - le - lu - jah! what a Friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, lov - ing, He is with me to the end.