

HC 69-70 – Baptism Symbolizes our unity with Christ and his Church!

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Last week you saw that the 2 sacraments that God gave us, baptism and the Lord's Supper, were sensible合理的 signs that focused our eyes on the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, just like circumcision and the Passover did. You heard that anything that does not focus our eyes on the cross cannot be considered a sacrament.

Today you will see the details of the 1st sensible sign, baptism, and how it focuses us on the work of Christ on the cross.

Our headings are:

The Meaning of Baptism Taught

The Meaning of Baptism Illustrated

Our goals are: That **you will love the God who sent his Son and Holy Spirit to give to you the benefits of eternal life and to mark those benefits by sprinkling you with water baptism.**

The Meaning of Baptism Taught

69 Q. HOW DOES BAPTISM **REMINDE YOU AND ASSURE YOU** THAT CHRIST'S ONE SACRIFICE牺牲ON THE CROSS IS FOR YOU **PERSONALLY**?
A. In this way: **Christ instituted this outward washing** and with it **gave the promise** that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so **certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity不纯**, in other words, all my sins.

1. As a believer you are commanded by the Lord to submit to water baptism.

Jesus instituted (Matthew 28) this and his disciples reiterated this command.

Acts 2: 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent悔改, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission豁免of sins..."

Those who refuse to submit themselves or their children to baptism are in **rebellion against the Lord's command** or are **showing a dismissive不屑一顾attitude to what Christ has done on the cross**. Either they are refusing to remember what Jesus did on the cross or they don't think it is important to remember what he did on the cross.

But how could one refuse to remember that:

2. Baptism is a sign -a perfect sensible sign.

It symbolizes God's promise to remove your sins from you just as water washes away dirt from the body.

3. Baptism is a seal – an eternal seal. God reminds you and assures you that Christ has fully paid for all your sins, and that you belong to him 100% - forever.

So baptism is not a simple ritual仪式 sign. **Baptism is a seal that marks your soul "property of Christ."** We can illustrate this from a wedding band. A wedding band is more than a beautiful sign. A wedding band is an assurance of love.

4. Baptism unites you to Christ.

You were united in Christ when he died, when he was buried, and when he rose again from the dead.

Romans 6: 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death**? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man was

crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. **7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.** 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live with Him, 11 Likewise you also, reckon估计 yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ** Jesus our Lord.

Apostle Paul here teaches that those who are baptized are inexorably无情united in Christ. **He did not intend to teach the mode/method of baptism;** he wanted to remind Christians that they were united with Christ and **therefore should not live however they want.** Remember, a wedding band is a reminder of your duty...so you make breakfast for your husband.

Those who carelessly argue that being buried with Christ was a symbol of the mode of baptism will have a hard time explaining how we “put on” Christ in baptism, or how the Holy Spirit was “poured out” in baptism.

(Gal 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Acts 2: 17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...’)

The truth is, those who were “put under” water usually symbolized destruction毁灭in the Bible. Pharaoh and his army were put under water, not Israel. The people of the flood were put under water, but not Noah. And the Bible teaches that Noah’s baptism symbolized our baptism. (1Pet 3:20)

5. Baptism unites you with the covenant community-God’s people.

You pledge保证to God to support and correct each other and work together to advance Christ’s kingdom. What rich blessings are in the church of Jesus Christ! **You willingly obligate yourself, because you belong to Jesus Christ, to help each other.** Praise God for your baptism...praise God for his church...praise God that you are in his kingdom! Serve others.

The Meaning of Baptism Illustrated

70 Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE **WASHED WITH CHRIST’S BLOOD AND SPIRIT?**

A. To be washed with Christ’s blood means that God, by grace, **has forgiven my sins** because of Christ’s blood poured out for me in his sacrifice on the cross. To be washed with Christ’s Spirit means that the **Holy Spirit has renewed** me and set me apart to be a member of Christ so that more and more I become dead to sin and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.

1. Now we come to this strange illustration of baptism: We are “washed in Christ’s blood and Spirit.”

What does this phrase mean? How can we be washed in blood? **It does not mean that you were immersed in the blood of Christ physically.** That would be gross. Let us first look from where that language came.

Exodus 29:21 "... take some of the blood that is on the altar, and some of the anointing oil, and **sprinkle it on Aaron** and on his garments, on his sons and on the garments of his sons with him; **and he and his garments shall be hallowed,** and his sons and his sons’ garments with him.

When the priests were sprinkled (baptized) with blood they were **declared to be washed of their sins.** Blood was sprinkled over them and they were fit to be priests. They were viewed as holy (hallowed).

Today, blood is not literally sprinkled over you because you have no need to be sprinkled with blood anymore. So God instituted that we use water.

2. To be washed (sprinkling/baptized) with Christ’s blood illustrates that God has forgiven you all your sins, and like Aaron’s sons, and you are now fit to be priests before God.

This means that you must not take the modern idea of washing by immersion like you do in a washing machine and implant with how washing was symbolized in the past.

3. The language of you being washed (and show you are forgiven) by the poured out blood of Jesus is found through the Bible.

a. Zechariah was a prophet of God spoke of the future work of God and the sacrificing of Jesus Christ. (Zech 13:7)

Zechariah 13: 1 "In that day **a fountain shall be opened** for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **for sin and for uncleanness.**

In this verse Zechariah pointed to the spiritual cleansing work of Jesus Christ that is symbolized in baptism.

b. Ezekiel stated that Christ would sprinkle his church and make her clean.

Ezekiel 36:25 "Then I **will sprinkle clean water on you**, and you shall be clean;

I will cleanse you from all your filthiness 污秽 **and from all your idols.** 26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

c. The writer of Hebrews testified that Jesus washed you with his blood as animal blood wasn't enough to clean you!

Hebrews 12: 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the **blood of sprinkling** that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

Consciences can't be washed by Christ's blood literally, but consciences can be washed spiritually by Christ's blood. As a result, you are forgiven. Your conscience 良心 is figuratively scrubbed clean. Both of these passages were in the context of baptism and symbolized by sprinkling.

d. Apostle John wrote of this is a most direct way:

Revelation 1: 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood,**

And all of this was by grace.

4. Let us make some direct conclusion about the mode of baptism.

You are washed by the blood of Christ in baptism, but it is not a literal washing. It's a symbolic one. No one can literally wash the conscience. **So first, immersion is not required by the text.**

How was this "symbolic washing" taking place in the Bible? Blood was either sprinkled or poured out - on many, many occasions.

Follow the argument now:

a. "Sprinkling" or "pouring" are clear methods of baptisms symbolizing that you have been made clean through the work of Jesus Christ.

b. There is no provable case of immersion in the Bible. Immersion is a possible translation of "baptism" but only became common in modern usage.

Because Jesus came "out of the water" is not proof that he was immersed. (The Jordan can be ankle deep.) If there were many people to baptize, it made sense to stand in the river to be sprinkled.

c. Those who argue that baptism must be by immersion (and they always reject all other baptisms) would have to prove that baptism by sprinkling.

and pouring, as was done before, was abolished取消 by God.

But keep in mind that the amount of water used in your baptism does not make it more or less effective. It is one who works in you and indeed washes away your sins that makes the true difference.

5. When you are washed in the blood of the Lamb, you will be a testimony to others of the work of

the one who baptized you and forgave you your sins.

People will see you as clean...and you will tell others why you are clean.

You will remember how the Israelites had the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts门框 and lintel过梁 of their front doors, not just as a evidence that their sins were forgiven, but also as a public testimony...a testimony to the Egyptians. No wonder many of Egyptians left with the Jews. They knew beyond doubt that the Jews were the people of God by the Passover blood. (Covenant sign)

6. You are not only washed in Christ's blood, but you are also washed by the Holy Spirit.

This means the Holy Spirit is renewing you to be more and more like Jesus Christ by removing all your sins. He did the initial cleaning and continues to clean up your messes混乱.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1Peter 1: 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in **sanctification of the Spirit**, for obedience and **sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ**: Grace to you and peace...

As the Holy Spirit sprinkles you with the knowledge of what Jesus Christ did for you, you will get better day by day. Your soul becomes cleaner every day. He will continue to work till you die. You need it.

Conclusion:

At your baptism God put a **sign on your head** and confirmed a **seal in your heart** that you belong to Jesus. You belong to Jesus Christ because he paid for your freedom with his blood – his red blood that washed black sins you and made you as white as snow.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Love what Jesus Christ did for you. He shed his blood for you. Don't get tired hearing of his love.

2. Listen to the warm assurances he gives you through baptism.

3. Live like your sins are forgiven.

4. Let others know what Christ did for you. This will **lift him high for the world to see**...see him on the cross, suffering for their sins.

Finally, if you are not a Christian you are still in your sins and will die in your sins. You can escape death if you believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins. You will show that you believe by being baptized and being incorporated in the body of Christ – the church – and receive all his benefits.