

Theology Simply Explained — WSC94

“Baptism: a Washing That TAGs Believers with Union to, Benefits from, and Consecration to Christ”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 94—especially explaining that the Spirit uses baptism to give us Christ Himself, with all His benefits.

Q94. What is baptism? **Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.**

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Sort of catechism question this week is what is baptism? The answer is baptism, is a sacrament. Wherein with the washing with water in the name. Of the father and of the son and of the holy ghost. Duff signify and co are in grafting into christ. And partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, And our engagement to be the lords.

Now, remember a sacrament was And ordinance of christ. We're in by sensible signs Christ on the benefits of the new covenant. Are represented sealed and applied to believers. And so that means baptism is an ordinance of christ. And here, the sensible sign is the watching with water. You can see the, the water.

Uh, being applied. And if you are the one being baptized, or the one baptizing, You can feel. Uh, the water you can hear it splash, perhaps. Um, Is a sensible sign. The sensible sign that is in particular, a naming ceremony. Uh, you are being tagged as one, who is joined to christ belongs to christ.

But christ is the second person of the triune god. He is The sun is the one in him. The triune god has most plainly and fully revealed himself to be father son. And holy spirit. We can see throughout the Old Testament. That god is trying in many. Evidences that.

The benefit of seeing. And knowing god, finally, and fully in the sun and experiencing The spiritual, he pours, out the ministry of the spirit to hearts. We look back and we understand, oh, so that's why he said this. So so that's what was Going on things that don't really make sense.

Apart from the trinity. And so it's a naming. Ceremony as a washington with water and the name. Of the father and the son, and of the holy ghost. And, The glorious doctrine of trying God, who has Planned conceived desired. Our redemption. From before the world began the father electing in the sun, the sun committing himself to the redemption of those Who are elected in the sun, the spirit.

Um, Being committed to the application of that redemption. And now in the fullness of time, the father sent the son into the world born under a woman, Born. Of a woman under the other woman under the law. In order that he might obey and suffer in our place, like sophia told us last week.

How the son of god christ, the son of god could suffer, he became a man for that and not only did the father, send the son that he might redeem us from sin, but also because we are sons, he said his spirit Into our hearts. The spirit whom he identifies there in.

In galatians as the spirit of the sun. And so one of the most important things in christianity is that we see that there is this triune work of salvation. Uh, that goes all the way back. Outside of time into god's desire in himself. Determination in himself, to save us.

And that he is doing this, especially in, and through his church, And that as he saves people, he gathers them into his church, as the church made up only of those who are being saved. No as everyone in the church being saved. No, and yet, this is a people who are marked by his name because the ordinary way in which he saves is through the means of grace in the church.

And He does command and gather into his church. All those whom he does say. And so there's this naming ceremony in the name of the triune god. It's one name. Uh, matthew 28. Baptizing them into the name singular. Of the father, the son and the holy ghost. This is the single name by which we know god.

He has tagged us. As his own. And so in baptism. In this. Washing with water, which Which is such a display to us of the train got white because the true christian baptism, the great christian baptism, the one that always does save you is when jesus Uh, pours out his spirit and gives you spiritual life, and gives you faith to believe in him and to be joined to him.

And so, The washing with water in the name of the father and the son and the holy ghost. Signifies it displays. The flooring out of the spirit. Who applies to you the sun? So, that you may be Redeemed and reconciled to the father. And so you can see in the pouring of the water on earth, this triune action of god.

As the. Uh the sun has been given and the sun gives the spirit and in the giving of the sun and the spirit you actually receive and are received by the father Through the actions of the spur of the sun and of the spirit. And so there's this wonderful signifying of in drafting into christ of the partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace.

And of our engagement or consecration. Uh, to be the lords. Uh, we are united to the lord jesus. This is the work that the spirit does that the the sun has poured at the spirit and the father had sent this son, who pours out the spirit the spirit proceeds, from both father and son.

Um, It's great. Work is uniting us to christ. Uh, so that we don't view salvation in this. Uh, abbreviated way just in terms. Of. Being given a righteous standing with god or just in terms. Merely in terms of being made, holy or merely in terms of escaping hell or merely in terms of coming into a new heavens and a new earth.

Uh, but that we view it primarily in terms. Of union with the sun and dwelling by the spirit. Uh, in him in the sun and by whom by the spirit, we are adopted by the father. And so this in grafting into christ's union with christ has within it. All of the benefits of the christian life.

Salvation is salvation. In and buy and unto the triune God himself. That is not just the removal of the guilt of sin, removal of the presence of sin, the removal of the penalty of sin and the addition of righteous standing and holy character. And Uh, and blessed. Circumstances forever?

No, it is god himself. And that is what we receive in union with Christ. This is why Uh when he wants to talk about our death to sin and our life unto God, your first to baptism in roman 6. Not in order that people can make mistakes. For thousands of years about the way that the water is applied.

But because it is in our union with christ that we die. It is in our union with christ that we rise again. It is in our union with Christ that we walked it is in our union

with christ that we kill remaining sin. It is in our union with christ that we call God our Father and all of these things in the next, three chapters from six, seven and eight, you know, we're two thirds of the way.

Now through those, in the midweek meeting, all of those things that are from union with Christ. And so this is the great thing that baptism, shows you That this is how the triune God is saving by uniting people to Jesus. And he's saying, if you believe When you believe.

This is the work of the spirit who unites you to the sun to bring you to the father. And so there's this wonderful display of the entirety. Of salvation. Not just two points about it. Of the baptism teaches those and all the others. But the entirety of salvation is displayed to us.

So baptism is a sacrament, we're in the washing with water and the name of the father and of the son and the holy ghosts signify and seal are in grafting into christ and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace and you can hear a little bit. The previous question there or the answer to the about two questions ago.

But wherein by sensible science christ, and the benefits of the new governance. Are represented sealed and applied. And you remember, Because baptism and the lord's supper tagged, the church identify the church. It was a represented christ in the benefits of the new covenant are represented to us. He tells us what they are.

But they're also sealed to us. He assures us that they're true. But he also applies them to his, he actually gives Christ to us. Through baptism and through the supper. He actually gives the benefits of the new covenant, which there's a wonderful little Uh, summary of them in romans chapter 14 when he says, the kingdom of god is not eating and drinking.

Beginning of god is not. The benefits of the new covenant. In other words is not the food and drink that you can that you can eat and drink now, although, you know, if you never had bacon and lobster, you'd be tempted in a fleshly way to say, oh, well now that Jesus has come we can have bacon and lobster.

Well, it's true enough. But, He says, the kingdom of god is not eating and drinking. It's righteousness and peace and joy in the holy ghost. There's a summary of some of the benefits of the new covenant. That you can live in righteousness. Being free from the guilt of sin and having been freed from the dominion of sin to fight it.

And you have peace with god. You don't live in a constant anxiety. Now. God is for you, no one can be against you and you have joy in the holy ghosts, which doesn't mean that You go around with. Uh, kind of like a spirit induced drug. Hi in his happy happy.

Happy happy. Happy all the time. No, joy in the, holy ghost, is the joy of knowing the father and the joy of knowing the son, the joy of having the father and belonging to him the joy of having the son and belonging to him and the joy of having the fellowship of the holy spirit, knowing him as a person who loves you and is with you in this in you.

And as constantly pouring out like a drink offering in your heart, the love of god. Like we heard in Romans chapter 5 and these are the benefits. Of the covenant of grace and and baptism in the name of the father and the son and the holy ghost by an action, that imitates with water, what Jesus does with the spirit Jesus, baptizes with the spirit, we baptized with water baptism shows that god gives himself in christ and all of the benefits of having him in christ.

And the spirit actually uses this display. And the fact that we have received this sign, this seal, As part of how he works faith in us and stirs it up in us, joins us to christ. Gives us the benefits that come from christ. Just like he uses the words to do that.

As we read and think, and yes, there's learning and there's processing ideas. But there's also that work that god himself actually does on the soul by the use of the word. And there's work that god does on your soul. As you improve, your baptism to use the old word as you make application ongoing.

Draw ongoing benefit from the fact that you are baptized because you're you're The application of the water takes place in a moment. But you continue then to be a baptized person for the rest of eternity. And you make use of the fact that you have been tagged by the living god and that the one who tagged you externally with the water, as the one who tags you internally by his spirit who teaches you about christ and his benefits and assures, you, that you have christ and assures you that you have has benefits and the same spirit who teaches you?

Those things and assures. You of those things is the one who gives you Christ and gives you Christ's benefits. And he uses, The fact that you have had the water poured on you, just like Jesus pulls out the spirit on those whom he says, He uses those to assure your faith.

Now that you don't. Get assurance or any benefit apart from faith? Because, The baptism of the holy spirit, the spirit gives all these things by means of faith. And that's why That's why we said represented sealed and applied to. Believers. Because there's no assurance. Or grace apart from. Faith.

Because the baptism that saves is actually. The spirit whom Jesus bore out. Not the water that we pour out. But when we have the spirit when we have faith, when we have christ through that faith The sign and the seal. Are used being used by the same spirit who gave us that faith.

To strengthen that faith. To communicate to us and bring us into. Hey, hey. More complete and profound experience of god, the triune god in our union with the lord Jesus christ. And all of these things. Of course, remind us that we're holy This is why Paul calls. Baptized children saints in Ephesians and Colossians.

That's why we call. Sophia a saint. Because god has put her in his church, he has marked her off as holy. Says, one of the motivations for I believe in life of an unbelieving husband and first Corinthians 7 that if he permits her, To continue as his wife, knowing That Jesus is going to be first in her life.

Knowing that she will not compromise her faith for his sake. One of the reasons she should absolutely continue with him, even though it is a, a very difficult and painful providence, to me, and that situation. Is that? As long as the children are under her, not just under the unbelieving.

Father. Not only are they considered? Holy, they are considered as holy. As if both parents, Had been saints. And so, for the sake of the, the believing mom, the The husband, the dad. Is considered a holy with respect to the child. The child is considered. A saint. And when god marks someone off, as part of his visible church, He says, they are holy to me.

They are set apart to me from the world, the members of the church. Are expected to live a certain way. Sophia is expected to obey her parents but not just obey them to obey them in the lord. To depend upon the lord, Jesus christ in repentance and faith and to live out of her union with christ.

To honor her mom and dad to love and be cheerful in her obedience and and consistent and do it out of love, for god, love for our parents. But things you don't things that are impossible. Apart. Uh, from salvation. But when you believe, You realize you haven't just been marked by And sealed by.

Water. You've been marked and sealed by god, the holy spirit. And your devotion to be the lord's. Not just because he's made you part. Now of his visible church, which is one form of conspiracy. But because one of the great things, the holy spirit has done is set you apart.

As. As someone who is. Positionally sanctified. Set apart unto God as holy even in your soul by the work of the holy spirit. And so, One of the great things that you do. In response to your baptism to your water baptism. Is you repent of your sin and you believe in the lord jesus christ because all of these things that we are describing water baptism being a benefit for Are made effectual and you experience them and receive the actual benefits of them through faith.

There's no, there's no internal lasting effectual benefit apart from faith in jesus christ. Apart from the work of the holy spirit, who dwells in you. Apart from reconciliation and experiential adoption by the father. It's a naming ceremony that says god himself as the salvation. And so it would be a great mistake to think that the application of the water is the salvation.

Or that the application of the water. Does any of these things apart from the work of the spirit faith? Uh, faith that unites you to the sun. Knowing thought as your father experiential, truly genuinely in your adoption, the baptism itself. Says that those are the only things. That have lasting effectual spiritual benefit, so it's like the supper, isn't it?

If you try to have benefit from the supper, Without attention to the lord jesus. What happens to eat and drink judgment to yourself. Well, if you try to have benefit from baptism, Apart from repentance and faith in the Lord, jesus, the ongoing work spirit, who communicates to you adoption by the father in union with the son, Then you have just had water poured on you in judgment to yourself.

And there are those who Receive the water. Put their judged. The lord says that all of israel was Baptized and the red sea. Well. Egypt, received the water of the red sea. As well and they died physically. But, A great. Many of those who received the water of the Red Sea.

Did not repent and believe. In the promised Messiah. And with them with god was not pleased and they fell in the wilderness. And hebrews tells us they didn't just fail to enter the promised land. They failed to enter. The spiritual rest. When they ceased from their works in this world.

And then baptism, of course, with noah, The, the water came upon the whole world. But there were only eight who are temporarily saved. And, All indication. About ham and Keenan. Ham who was on the boat. And he received the temporal salvation being set up art in the visible church, where the water And yet, he did not receive.

Repentance and faith. And so baptism. It does not point us to itself. That points us to christ. And we must repent and believe. And rejoice. That what man has done with water. From what jesus does. With his spirit. Praise God. So the question, what is baptism? And the answer baptism is a sacrament, we're in the washing with water.

In the name of the father and of the son and of the holy ghost death, signify and seal are in grafting into Christ. And partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, And are engagement. To be the lords.