




Preaching and Sacraments: Means of Grace



2 Peter 3:18: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...”



Grace Alone

Ephesians 1:4-5, 9: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved... For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”



Grace Alone

Romans 3:23-24: “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...”



Grace Alone

Titus 2:11-12: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...”



Grace Alone

1 Corinthians 15:10: “By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 88. What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.



The Word

Romans 10:17: “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

2 Timothy 3: “...the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable...”

2 Timothy 4: “I charge you in the presence of God...preach the word...”



The Word

Psalm 1: “How blessed is the man...”

Ezra 7:10: “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

Sacraments

What is a sacrament?

“A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, in which by sensible *signs* the grace of God in Christ is represented, *sealed*, and applied to believers, and they, in turn, express their faith and obedience to God”

-- Louis Berkhof, *Manual of Christian Theology*

Sacraments

What does baptism signify?

- Cleansing or Purification (Titus 3:5; Heb 10:22; cf. Ezek 35:26-27)
- Discipleship to Christ (Matt 28:19)
- Identification with Christ; “a naming ceremony” (‘into the name...’ Acts 2:38; 8:16)
- Faith in Christ and Repentance (Acts 2:38; 8:37-38)
- Entrance into the Visible Church (1 Cor 12:13)

Sacraments

The Logic of Baptism: *Repent and Believe*

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:1-4).

Sacraments

The Logic of Baptism

Q. 167. *How is baptism to be improved by us?*

A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.

Sacraments

The Lord's Supper: Remembrance

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in **remembrance** of me.’ ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in **remembrance** of me.’

-- 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



Sacraments

The Lord's Supper: Proclamation

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you ***proclaim*** the Lord's death until he comes.”

-- 1 Corinthians 11:26

Sacraments

The Lord's Supper: Participation ['sharing'; 'communion']

“I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a ***participation*** in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a ***participation*** in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all ***partake*** of the one bread.”

-- 1 Corinthians 10:15-17



Prayer

God commands us to pray

Ephesians 6:18: “...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Prayer

God makes promises to those who pray

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me” (Psalm 51:11).

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:7-11)



Prayer

Hebrews 4:14-16

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”