

Sermon Outline
The Rev. Dr. S. Edd Cathey
“Baptism Now Saves You??”
August 30, 2015

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 3:15-22

I want you to make FULL USE of what God has given to you in baptism!

Genesis 6

1 Peter 3:20-21

Peter is saying that Baptism is like the Flood and the Ark.

What saves you?

Union with Christ saves you!

How does this help the Christians to whom Peter is writing?

Sacrament: Two parts: Part A, a thing from the material world (water, bread, wine) chosen by God to be accompanied with Part B, a speech chosen by God both to illustrate and to enact something.

It belongs to the church. Christ gave it to the visible church.

A sacrament is less than the thing itself (union with Christ) but more than a mere illustration of the thing.

Example of God’s speech act

Genesis 1:3-27 compared with John 1:1-3

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Definition by Linguists: Declarative speech acts are speech acts that change reality in accord with the proposition of the declaration, e.g. baptisms, pronouncing someone guilty or pronouncing someone husband and wife.

Source Stanford University Speech Acts first published Tue Jul 3, 2007; substantive revision Thu Oct 2, 2014

BAPTISM with faith, gives you “an appeal of a good conscience”

Romans 6

The modern mind loves to separate material things from spiritual things and loves to pit public ceremony against sincerity.

It should not be strange to us that God uses the speech act of Holy Baptism to assure us of our union with Christ by faith!

This is the baptismal GOSPEL! Good news of vital, life-giving, assurance strengthening, union with Christ!

Are you in the Ark that came through the flood? Thanks be to God.

Heidelberg Catechism

Question 72. Is then the external baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

Answer: Not at all: for the blood of Jesus Christ only, and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sin.

Question 73. Why then does the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures call baptism "the washing of regeneration," and "the washing away of sins"?

Answer: God speaks thus not without great cause, to-wit, not only thereby to teach us, that as the filth of the body is purged away by water, so our sins are removed by the blood and Spirit of Jesus Christ; but especially that by this divine pledge and sign he may assure us, that we are spiritually cleansed from our sins as really, as we are externally washed with water.