

Holy Baptism: 2nd The Blessings of Baptism

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).*

Today, I want to highlight the first question from the Explanation: *What great and precious things are given in Baptism?*

The first answer is: *Baptism works forgiveness of sins. Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.* After hearing Peter’s sermon at Pentecost, the crowd was *cut to the heart and asked, “Brothers, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37)?* Their only hope is to be baptized in the name of the man they had just killed. But if they do that, they are promised that all their sins will be forgiven. Isn’t it great to know this promise applies to us today? When we are Baptized, all our sins are forgiven, no matter how gross.

The second answer is: *Baptism rescues from death and the devil. Romans 6:3, 5 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ... If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.* Baptism unites us to Christ. it unites us with Him in death, death to sin. And it unites us with Him in life, a life lived to the Father.

The third answer is: *Baptism gives eternal salvation. 1 Peter 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this [waters of Noah’s flood], now saves you ... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* Baptism is likened to the flood. Everything and everyone were destroyed by the water. In the same way, our sin is destroyed by the water of Baptism. Just as Noah and his family were saved in the ark, Baptism, which places us in the ark of the church, saves us for eternal life. We rejoice in these three blessings of Baptism.