LESSON 18

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:26-40

1. Q. What are sacraments?

   A. Sacraments are visible signs and seals of God's saving grace.
2. Q. Which two sacraments has Christ instituted?

   A. Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
3. Q. What does the water with which we are baptized signify?

   A. The water signifies the washing away of sin by the blood and Spirit of Christ.
4. Q. In whose name are we to be baptized?

   A. We are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
5. Q. Are infant children of believing parents also to be baptized?

   A. Yes they are, for children of believing parents are also included in the covenant and church of God.

The Holy Spirit produces faith in the heart by the faithful preaching of the Word of God and He confirms it by the same Word of God and by the use of the sacraments. Sacraments are not mere human devices.

Sacraments were instituted by the Lord Himself; this gives the sacraments their special importance and validity.

Before Jesus went to heaven, he commissioned His disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . He that _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ shall be _ _ _ _ ; but he that believeth not shall be _ _ _ _ _ " (Mark 16:15-16).

I. The Meaning of Baptism

1. Baptism teaches us about the impurity of our souls and our need of a divine spiritual cleansing. Jesus told the apostle Peter: "If _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _" (John 13:8b).
2. Q. Does the water in baptism wash away sin?

   A. _ _, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
3. Q. What alone can cleanse us from our sin? (1 John 1:7b)

   A. "_ _."
4. Ordinarily water is used for physical cleansing. In the sacrament of baptism, it is a sign or symbol of spiritual cleansing by the _ _ _ _ _ and the Spirit of Christ.
5. That the sacrament of baptism symbolizes spiritual cleansing is taught in the following passages:
   (a) Acts 22:16: "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _, and _ _ _ _ away thy _ _ _ _, calling on the _ _ _ _ of the Lord."
   (b) Ephesians 5:25-26: "Christ . . . loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ it with the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of the _ _ _ _ _ by the _ _ _ _."
   (c) Acts 2:38b: Peter told the people to "repent, and be baptized … in the name of Jesus Christ for the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ _."

II. Who Are to be Baptized?

1. Q. According to Acts 2:41a, who were baptized?

   A. "They _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ received his _ _ _ _ were baptized."
2. Q. From whom were they to separate themselves? (Acts 2:40b)

   A. From this untoward _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

   (The word 'untoward' means 'crooked' or 'dishonest'.)
3. What is required of adults before they can be baptized?
   (a) They have to _ _ _ _ _ _ of their sins (Acts 2:38).
   (b) They have to _ _ _ _ _ _ in Christ and confess His name (Acts 8:37).
4. Q. In whose name are God's people to be baptized? (Matthew 28:19b)

   A. In the name of the _ _ _ _ _ _, and of the _ _ _, and of the Holy Ghost.

5. Q. Which New Testament convert died and went to be with the Lord without being baptized? (Luke 23:39-43)

   A. The penitent th _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

6. Q. Of whom is it recorded that he believed and was baptized, without being converted? (Acts 8:9-24)

   A. S_ _ _ _ the Sorcerer.

7. Underline which two classes of people below must be baptized.

   (a) Adults who believe but were not baptized in childhood.

   (b) All those who hear God's Word.

   (c) All adults who desire it.

   (d) The children of believing parents.

   (e) All whose parents request it for them.

8. Who received the sacrament of baptism according to:

   (a) Acts 16:14a,15a? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

   (b) Acts 16:23,27a,33b? _ _ _ j _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

   (c) 1 Corinthians 1:16a? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

III. The Grounds for Infant Baptism

It is based upon the continuation of the covenant of grace which God made with Abraham and upon Biblical proof from the New Testament.

1. In His covenant with Abraham, God promised to be a _ _ _ unto A_ _ _ _ _ _ and his _ _ _ _ . (Genesis 17:7c)
2. In Genesis 17:7, God promised Abraham that His covenant would be "an _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ covenant."
3. The apostle Peter said, "The promise is unto _ _ _ , and to your _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ " (Acts 2:39).
4. The sign of the covenant in the Old Testament was _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . (Genesis 17:10b)
5. The sign of the covenant in the New Testament is _ _ _ _ _ _ _. (Acts 2:38a)
6. Q. What did Peter assure the New Testament believers? (Acts 2:39)

   A. "For the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , and to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

7. Both signs have essentially the same spiritual meaning and symbolize spiritual renewal.

   (a) Circumcision was a sign and a seal of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . (Romans 4:11a)

   (b) Baptism is a sign and a seal of f_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ as the _ _ _ of _ _ _ . (Acts 8:37)

A Pastoral Message

In the third chapter of the Gospel according to John, we read about Jesus' interview with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a religious man. He was a well-respected Pharisee. He even belonged to the Jewish Sanhedrin.

Moreover, Nicodemus was Israel's most distinguished teacher of his day. Undoubtedly, he had received the Old Testament sign of the covenant and was circumcised on the eighth day. With all his special privileges and advantages, Nicodemus was yet a real stranger to the deepest religious need of his heart.

In his own experience he did not know the cry of the psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10a). The sympathizing Christ was deeply moved with the spiritual poverty of Nicodemus.

Therefore, in His straightforward and compassionate way Christ told him: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

At first Nicodemus did not understand what he heard. In His gracious faithfulness, Jesus explained and insisted, "You must be born again!"

The new birth is a radical and blessed change, made in the heart of a sinner by the grace and power of God the Holy Spirit. The new birth is a precious wonder whereby we become spiritually alive. So, and so alone, begins a life that never ends!

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

(John 3:7)

Evaluator: _____