

Lord's Day 27

Suggested Devotional Readings Prior to Class

Genesis 17, Acts 2:39, Galatians 3:23-29, Colossians 2:11-12

QUESTION 72.

Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

ANSWER. No, only the blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.¹

QUESTION 73.

Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

ANSWER. God speaks in this way for a good reason. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ remove our sins just as water takes away dirt from the body.¹ But, even more important, He wants to assure us by this divine pledge and sign that we are as truly cleansed from our sins spiritually as we are bodily washed with water.²

QUESTION 74.

Should infants, too, be baptized?

ANSWER. Yes. Infants as well as adults belong to God's covenant and congregation.¹ Through Christ's blood the redemption from sin and the Holy Spirit, who works faith, are promised to them no less than to adults.² Therefore, by baptism, as sign of the covenant, they must be grafted into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers.³ This was done in the old covenant by circumcision,⁴ in place of which baptism was instituted in the new covenant.⁵

Proof Texts for Lord's Day 27

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 72.1]

Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

I Peter 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ....

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin....

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 73.1]

I Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Revelation 1:5 ...and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Revelation 7:14 I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 73.2]

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit....”

Romans 6:3, 4; Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 74.1]

Genesis 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Matthew 19:14 ... but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 74.2]

Psalms 22:11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

Isaiah 44:1-3 "But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Acts 2:38, 39 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 74.3]

Acts 10:47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

I Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 74.4]

Genesis 17:9-14 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Lords Day 27 [Q&A 74.5]

Colossians 2: 11-13 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,...