

Cling to the Lord Your God

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 26

1. FROM JOSHUA TO JUDGES: The Scriptures repeatedly warn us not to _____, but to _____ to the Lord our God.

- a. Joshua 23:8 "...you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day."
- b. Judges 2:10 "...there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel"
- c. It is for this reason, with this _____, that God has given us the _____, including baptism.

2. BAPTISM NOW SAVES YOU: Christ instituted baptism to _____ and _____ us that everything he did is for us personally as his covenant people.

- a. Specifically, in baptism Christ gives us the _____ that we are _____ by his blood and Spirit, a promise that must be received by _____ (Q&A 69, 70).

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 (1 Peter 3:21)

- b. (This of course does not exclude children, since circumcision in the Old Testament – which included children – also promised something that had to be received by faith, as Paul says in Romans 4:11.)
- c. If you think "baptism now saves you" is _____, consider the rest of the verses cited by the Catechism (Q&A 71):

Matthew 28:19 "baptizing them into the name of..."

Mark 16:16 "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved"

Titus 3:5 "he saved us... by the washing of regeneration"

Acts 22:16 "be baptized and wash away your sins"

- d. We must distinguish the _____ (outward washing) and the _____ signified (Christ's blood and Spirit), but we must not separate them.

3. DON'T FORGET, BUT CLING: God has given the sacraments to us – including baptism – to help us in our _____ to _____ and _____ to the LORD our God.

- a. Remember your baptism: as a _____ of identity, _____ of promise, and _____ to cling to the LORD by faith.

- b. Be encouraged: all of this is _____, because all of it is a work of God in us by the Spirit.