

LORD'S DAY 26

Q69. How does baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

A. In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins.¹

1. Mark 1:4 – “so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:3 – “He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,”

Q70. What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

A. To be washed with Christ's blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ's blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross.¹ To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives.²

1. Heb. 12:24 – “and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”

1 Pet. 1:2 – “who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:”

Rev. 1:5 – “and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood”

Rev. 22:14 – “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.”

Zech. 13:1 – “On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”

Ezek. 36:25 – “I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.”

2. John 1:33 – “I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

John 3:5 – “Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.’”

1 Cor. 6:11 – “And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

1 Cor. 12:13 – “For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

Rom. 6:4 – “Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.”

Col. 2:12 – “when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Q71. Where does Christ promise that we are washed with his blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

A. In the institution of baptism, where he says: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”¹ “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.”² This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism “the water of rebirth”³ and the washing away of sins.⁴

1. Matt. 28:19 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

2. Mark 16:16 – “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned.”

3. Titus 3:5 – “he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

4. Acts 22:16 – “And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.”