



# Christian Basics Class

## *Week 7 - The Sacraments*

### **The Means of Grace**

1. Word of God
2. Sacraments

### **The Sacraments**

1. Physical Element
2. God's Word of Promise
3. Does Stuff
  - a. Baptism
  - b. Lord's Supper
  - c. Confession/Absolution\*

### **Baptism - Part 1**

What is Baptism? *Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word. Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)*

What about . . .

- The word "baptize"?
- The water in baptism?
- The institution of baptism?
- Who should get baptized?

### **Baptism - Part 2**

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)*

The stuff God does through baptism:

- Forgiveness of sins
- Rescues from death and the devil
- Gives eternal salvation



### **Baptism - Part 3**

How can water do such great things? *Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)*

### **Baptism - Part 4**

What does such baptizing with water indicate? *It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom. 6:4)*

### **The Lord's Supper - Part 1**

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? *It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

What about . . .

- Who instituted it?
- What is actually present in this meal?
- How often should we receive it?

### **The Lord's Supper - Part 2**

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? *These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.*

What happens when we receive this gift?

- We receive forgiveness, life, and salvation
- Our faith is strengthened



- We are connected to our fellow believers
- We are equipped for the Christian life
- We have a foretaste of the feast to come

### **The Lord's Supper - Part 3**

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? *Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."*

### **The Lord's Supper - Part 4**

Who receives this sacrament worthily? *Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.*