



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The Fourth Chief Part: Baptism
The Nature and Blessings of Baptism

Baptism is not just water, but it is water used according to God's command and connected to His Word.

What is that word and command of God concerning Baptism?
Jesus says, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20).

What does Baptism give or profit?

Baptism effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as the words and commands of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says, Mark 16:16, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

You can clearly see that Baptism is not a work that we do, but a treasure that God gives us and that our faith grasps, **even as the Lord Christ on the cross** is not a human work but a **treasure contained** in the Word, **offered to us** by the Word, and **received by faith** in the Word. Therefore, those do us an injustice who loudly protest that in our preaching we oppose faith. – **Martin Luther, Large Catechism, IV, 37**

FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES



"I came to **set fire on the earth**, and how I wish it were already kindled! But **I have a baptism to be baptized with**, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

+ St. Luke 12:49-53 +

The voice of God is heard from heaven – James Tissot, watercolor

A BIBLE VERSE TO REMEMBER

"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, **teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; **and lo, I am with you always**, even to the end of the age." – **Matthew 28:19-20**