

Christianity 101

Week 4

(revised 07/15/17)

Two Questions from last week

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| <p>1. Write down your biggest takeaway from Class One. This could be something that was new to you, something that fascinates you, or just something you'd like to know more about.</p> | <p>2. As you reflect on Class One, write down if you have any question that remains unanswered.</p> |
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BAPTISM & CONVERSION

Outline of topics...

THE CHRISTIAN SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

FAITH NECESSARY

CONVERSION

COMMUNION WITH GOD

WASHING

BAPTISM MARKS US AS NEW CREATIONS

REPENTANCE

BAPTISM MARKS OUR RECEPTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

BAPTISM MARKS OUR INITIATION INTO CHURCH

BAPTISM TEACHES US AND REMINDS US ABOUT OUR NEW LIFE

BAPTISM & INFANTS

INFANT BAPTISM & THE RELATION OF BAPTISM AND FAITH

INFANT BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

BAPTISM AND INFANT DEATH

WHEN IS INFANT BAPTISM APPROPRIATE?

INFANT BAPTISM FROM A COVENANT THEOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

THE CHRISTIAN SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

SACRAMENT: “AN OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGN OF AN INWARD AND SPIRITUAL GRACE”

Sacraments ordained of Christ be not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they be certain sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us, by which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our Faith in him. (#25 of the 39 Articles)

SACRAMENTS DON'T SAVE, FAITH DOES

And Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” - Mark 16:15-16

THE LORD’S COMMAND

Jesus said, “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...” - Matthew 28:19

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

WATER AND WORDS

A SIGN THAT CARRIES A MESSAGE

THE MESSAGE

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been 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 too might walk in newness of life.... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 6:3-4,11

FAITH NECESSARY

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

BAPTISM ANALOGOUS TO QUEEN'S CORONATION

BAPTISM NOT PROOF OF SALVATION

A VISIBLE CONFIRMATION OF PROMISE

CONVERSION

CONVERSION A UNIVERSAL REQUIREMENT OF CHRISTIANITY

DON'T PIGEONHOLE WHAT CONVERSION LOOKS LIKE

ELEMENTS OF CONVERSION

1) CONFESSION OF NEED & SELF-HUMBLING

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" - Luke 18:13

Jesus said, "...for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." - Luke 18:14

2) TURNING TO JESUS HIMSELF & WELCOMING HIS REIGN

3) SEEKING TO BE OBEDIENT

GIFT OF BAPTISM = COMMUNION WITH GOD

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:6

BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE TRINITY

WASHING

THE NEED FOR WASHING

Jesus said to Peter, "If I do not wash you, you are not in fellowship with me." - John 3:18

GOD DOES THE WASHING

CANCELING OUR GUILT BY FORGIVENESS

*...the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- 1 John 1:7*

BREAKING SIN'S DOMINION IN OUR LIVES

*...how much more will the blood of Christ... purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
- Hebrews 9:14*

BAPTISM MARKS US AS NEW CREATIONS

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! - 2 Corinthians 5:17

"But I'm a Christian and I still sin"

BAPTISM IS SUBMITTING TO CHRIST CHANGING US

REPENTANCE

REPENTANCE IS NOT MERELY REGRET

REPENTANCE REQUIRES GRACE

*Jesus said to the disciples, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!" ... Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."
- Mark 10:24-27*

BAPTISM MARKS OUR RECEPTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & OUR INITIATION INTO THE CHURCH

BAPTISM MARKS OUR RECEPTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“At what point does the Holy Spirit come to dwell in someone?”

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." - Acts 2:38

BAPTISM MARKS OUR INITIATION INTO CHURCH

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. - 1 Corinthians 12:13

A NEW SOCIETY

INVOLVEMENT IN BODY OF CHRIST NORMATIVE FOR BAPTIZED

ETHICS OF THE BODY

...for we are members of one another. - Ephesians 4:25

VALUE ONE ANOTHER

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. - Galatians 3:28

SERVE ONE ANOTHER

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. - Ephesians 4:15-16

BAPTISM TEACHES US AND REMINDS US ABOUT OUR NEW LIFE

BAPTISM & INFANTS

CHRISTIAN DIVISION

SCRIPTURE NEITHER COMMANDS NOR FORBIDS INFANT BAPTISM

STRONG EVIDENCE APOSTLES PERFORMED INFANT BAPTISM

'At the same hour of the night (the jailer) took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. - Acts 16:33

INFANT BAPTISM & THE RELATION OF BAPTISM AND FAITH

"Can infants have faith?"

YES & NO

NO: NOT FULL FAITH: INFANTS CANNOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUTH OF GOSPEL & PROCLAIM JESUS AS LORD

YES: INFANTS CAN BELONG TO CHRIST & RELATE TO HIM THROUGH LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14

INFANT BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

INFANT BAPTISM DEMANDS ADULT CONVERSION

OPPOSITION ROOTED IN OUTRAGE AT INDISCRIMINATE INFANT BAPTISMS

INDISCRIMINATE INFANT BAPTISM CAN BE A HINDRANCE TO SAVING FAITH

BAPTISM AND INFANT DEATH

FEAR OF INFANT DAMNATION CAN BE TRACED TO ST. AUGUSTINE

"...let no one promise for the case of unbaptized infants some middle place, as it were, between damnation and the kingdom of heaven, of rest and happiness... for this is what the heresy of Pelagius promises them" -St Augustine

INFANT DAMNATION INCONSISTENT WITH SCRIPTURAL WITNESS

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven." - Matthew 10:32-33

APPROPRIATENESS OF INFANT BAPTISM

"When is infant baptism appropriate?"

WHEN THERE IS A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF ACTIVE LIFE IN THE CHURCH

IT TAKES ACTIVELY BELIEVING PARENTS TO RAISE ACTIVELY BELIEVING CHILDREN

INFANT BAPTISM FROM A COVENANT THEOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

"Baptism isn't primarily a way for us to show our faith and devotion. As with worship more generally, God is the agent here. Baptism is a sacrament precisely because it is a means of grace, a way that God's gracious initiative marks and seals us. It is the sign that God is a covenant-keeping Lord who fulfills his promises even when we don't. This is why, since the time of the early church, households have been baptized (Acts 16:33, 1cor 1:16), and it is why, historically in 'catholic' Christianity, believing parents present their children for baptism. Baptism is not a bottom-up expression of our faith but a top-down symbol of God's gracious promises. He chose us before we could believe; he loves before we even know how. Baptism signals our initiation into a people..." -James K.A. Smith

Book of Acts		
Year (approx.)	Chapters	What Happened
30 A.D.	Acts 1	Jesus' Ascension Judas Replaced by Matthias
30	Acts 2	Birth of Church at Pentecost
30-32	Acts 3-7	The Church in Jerusalem
32	Acts 8	Ministry beyond Jerusalem
32-44	Acts 9-12	Gospel for Gentiles, too!
44-48	Acts 13-14	Paul's First Mission
48	Acts 15:1-35	Apostles Confer at Jerusalem
49-52	Acts 15:36-18:22	Paul's Second Mission
54-58	Acts 18:23	Paul's Third Mission
58-60	Acts 22-28	Paul Imprisoned in Judea
60-61	Acts 27-28	Paul sent to Rome
61-63	Acts 28:30	Paul under house arrest in Rome
63+		Unknown

Content

-Pentecost was a Jewish feast (pilgrimage)
 -Jews from all over are in Jerusalem for Pentecost
 -spirit falls on Apostles, enabling them to speak in all the foreign tongues of visiting Jews
 -3000 converted

-Common life of believers is described
 -Apostles are persecuted by Jews
 -Stephen stoned under approval of Saul (Paul), becoming first Christian martyr
 -Persecution by Jews causes much of Jerusalem church to scatter all over Roman empire
 Scattered Believers begin ministering in foreign lands: Simon the Sorcerer & the Ethiopian Eunuch

-Saul/Paul believes after meeting Jesus on road to Damascus
 -Paul assimilated into Jerusalem Church
 -Peter given vision from God, expanding Gospel to Gentiles... fulfilling Abrahamic Covenant of blessing *all* nations through Israel
 -First Gentile Church established in Antioch (Syria)
 -Paul & Barnabas sent on first missionary journey

-Circumcision for Gentile Christians determined to be unnecessary

-Two missionary campaigns begin: Barnabas and Mark go to Cyprus, while Paul and Silas go to revisit cities from first missionary campaign
 -Stops include Galatian cities, Phillipi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, before returning to Caesarea and then Syrian Antioch
 -Stops include Galatian cities, Ephesus, Phillipi, Corinth, Phillipi and Ephesus again, then back to Jerusalem

-Paul arrested for his safety soon after arriving in Jerusalem
 -Paul is transferred to Caesarea
 -Paul appeals to Caesar and is sent to Rome
 -Three ships are used, second one is wrecked in storm

-Paul arrives at Rome, where he enjoys comfortable house arrest and preaches the gospel for two years.

-What happened after this is unknown. He was most likely released and went to Spain before going back east and being further imprisoned and executed.



<http://www.bible-history.com/new-testament/pauls-first-missionary-journey.gif>



<http://www.bible-history.com/new-testament/pauls-second-missionary-journey.gif>



<http://www.bible-history.com/new-testament/pauls-third-missionary-journey.gif>

Pauline Epistles		
Book	Written...	Content / Themes
Romans	Paul to Jewish/Gentile Christians in Rome, Italy	-God's law, faith, and salvation
1 Corinthians	Paul's 2nd of 4 letters to the Church at Corinth, Greece	-Division in the Corinthian church -sexual morality -food offered to idols -the Lord's Supper -spiritual gifts -resurrection
2 Corinthians	Paul's 4th of 4 letters to the Church at Corinth, Greece	-repairing Paul's relationship with Corinthian Church -request for financial aid for the Christians in Jerusalem -Paul on his apostleship
Galatians	Paul's letter to Galatian churches in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, & Derbe	-Gentile Christians not required to be circumcised -law, faith, and salvation
Ephesians	Paul's circular letter to the churches around Ephesus	-unity of the Church -armor of God -living out new life in Christ
Philippians	Paul's letter from Roman prison to Church in Philippi, Macedonia	-Jesus as the model of humility -run to win the race -instructions on living
Colossians	Paul writes to Church he did not found in Colossae (modern-day Turkey)	-praise for Colossae church -Christ and his work -the apostle's task -new life in Christ
1 Thessalonians	Paul writes to the faithful and suffering church in Thessalonica	-Christian life
2 Thessalonians		-Jesus' return & judgment
1 Timothy	Letters to Timothy, who is likely in Ephesus, from his mentor, Paul	-pastoral letter about leadership in the church -dangers of false teaching
2 Timothy		-personal pastoral advice and encouragement
Titus	Paul's letter to his companion and fellow missionary, Titus, leading the church in Crete	-pastoral letter of encouragement
Philemon	Paul's personal letter to his friend Philemon, sent to Philemon with Onesimus	-direction concerning his runaway slave, Onesimus

non-Pauline Epistles		
Book	Written...	Content / Themes
Hebrews	unknown author writing to Jewish converts to Christianity	-Jesus as great High Priest -audience encouraged to not abandon the faith
James	James writes to Jewish Christians	-faith and works -testing and trouble -wisdom -prayer
1 Peter	Peter to five scattered churches	-enduring through suffering and hard times -live lives which reflect God's holiness
2 Peter	Peter to unknown destination	-combats false teaching -encouragement to live blameless lives while awaiting the Lord's return
1 & 2 John	anonymous letters, possibly written by John or someone from John's tradition	-warns readers against false teaching -hold to the truth; live in the light
3 John		-personal note about a problematic church leader
Jude	letter written by Jesus' brother Jude	-strong warning against false teaching
Revelation	Apocalyptic letter written by John of Patmosto seven churches	-letters of warning to each church -visions of destruction of evil and triumph of God, as well as judgment -God's new heavens and new earth 1) Revelation of who Jesus fully is 2) Revelation of the powerful political, social, and economic forces that lead people to serving false gods of their own making

Spiritual Principle & Practice to help us live the life God intends for us...

Principle #1:

God is sovereign over all the world and anything that could come our way in life, over forces that we are powerless over. And God is good.

Practice #1:

Turn control of my whole life over to the care of God and His direction, every day: including my relationships, my finances, my plans, my choices, my day

Principle #2a:

God created us to receive our sense of value & identity and to hold him responsible for our needs, rather than from other people.

Practice #2a:

Look to God, rather than other people, for my sense of value and identity.

Principle #2b:

In Christ, I am a beloved child of God.

Practice #2b:

Receive and live in the truth that I am a beloved child of God, who wants to cares for my needs.

Principle #3:

God's intention is to transform me more and more into the likeness of Christ

Practice #3:

Open ourselves up to and cooperate with God's process of transformation

Principle 4:	Insofar as it depends on us, we are to live at peace with everyone.	If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. -Romans 12:18	You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. - Matthew 5:21-22
Life holding onto bitterness and unforgiveness or failing to take responsibility for our wrong actions:	Mean-spirited, live out of wounding, unhappy/depressed, hard to be around, deterioration in relationships, spiritual stagnancy.	Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. -Psalm 32:1-5	"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. -Matthew 5:43-45
Practice 4a:	Confess our sin to another	Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. - James 5:16a	If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:9
Practice 4b:	Take responsibility for the wrongs we've done to others, when to do so will not cause further harm	So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. - Matthew 5:23-24	
Practice 4c:	Surrender past grievances unto God, forgiving others for the wrongs they've done to us	"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven..." - Luke 6:37	Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." - Romans 12:19
		Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. - 1 John 2:9	"...forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us." -Luke 11:4