

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

As a child of Adam, I am by nature sinful and unclean. **As a child of God, I am by grace righteous and pure in God's sight. I have been born of water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism, through which God the Holy Spirit created and sustains faith in my heart to believe and trust in Jesus and gives me the gift of eternal life.**

Bible Words

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

Fun Facts

The Jewish Council of seventy religious leaders oversaw the temple activities.

From the Catechism

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.

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.

Luther's Small Catechism, Baptism, First Part, Second Part

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

John 3:1–21

Jesus challenged the powerful religious leaders when He overturned tables and chased money-changers and vendors from the temple. That threatened the leaders' income and way of life. He also made them wonder if He was the Christ, the King God promised His Old Testament people.

A Pharisee and member of the Jewish Council named Nicodemus wanted to know more. He came to see Jesus secretly at night. Nicodemus said he knew God was with Jesus because of His miracles. Jesus answered by addressing Nicodemus's real question about God's kingdom. He said, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

Taking Jesus' words literally, Nicodemus asked how an old man could enter his mother's womb to be born again. Jesus replied, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (v. 5). Jesus spoke about the new birth of Baptism, an uneasy subject for the Pharisees who rejected John the Baptist and his Baptism of repentance, a preparation to meet Jesus. As a result, they rejected Jesus (Luke 7:29–30).

Jesus commands Baptism, and in it delivers His grace, faith, and forgiveness of sins. By water and Spirit, God births us into His kingdom. In Baptism, God unites us to Jesus' death and resurrection and makes us alive with Him, forgiven and new (Colossians 2:12–14).

Jesus left heaven to come to earth as our Savior, to die on the cross to pay for our sins, and to rise from the grave to give us new life. Our Lord did this so that we would not perish but have eternal life with Him.

Baptism and Faith

Baptism and faith are inseparable. God commands Baptism and promises birth to eternal life. Faith receives eternal life by hearing and trusting God's command and promise in Baptism. God can and does give faith through His Word, apart from Baptism. But faith cannot exist if someone rejects Baptism. All who believe and are baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:16).

Prayer

Jesus, help us believe and trust Your baptismal promises, delivered by water and Your Word. Amen.

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