

Church of the Promise
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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

5 Keeping the Promises

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

KEEPING THE PROMISES

Session Five

~*✠*~ **BECOME** ~*✠*~

THE COVENANTS of: Baptism & Communion

In the Old Testament, God gave the Nation of Israel the Law through Moses. The Law was like a contract written in living pictures. Hidden within the Law were promises that were legally theirs to claim, if Israel would keep these “picture contracts” called covenants. One such covenant was circumcision. These covenants were pictures of the promise of salvation and redemption that would come through the Messiah.

Jesus fulfilled all the covenants of the Law in His sinless life, death and resurrection. He then issued His own covenants or promises. He has provided for them so that we simply accept them as certain and carry out the “picture contract” for ourselves & others until they happen. Some of these promises are Kingdom citizenship, eternal life, the marriage supper of the Lamb and our residence in heaven. They are covenants that will remain until they are fulfilled at our death or at His literal return are:

I. Water Baptism:

Jesus commanded all who received Him to be _____ to demonstrate our receiving this covenant.

Matthew 28:

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.

A person who has experienced the New Birth will not hesitate to identify with Him in water Baptism. It symbolizes the new life we received at the time of the New Birth.

New Testament examples:

Acts 8:30-38 The Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 10:44-48 Cornelius house baptized

Acts 19:1-5 Paul baptizes the dozen at Ephesus.

Water Baptism symbolizes THREE things:

THREE THINGS: *Read Romans 6:1-12*

1. DEATH-To the old man
2. BURIAL – of the old man
3. RESURRECTION – new eternal life cleansed from sin.



This picture, at first glance, is somewhat unsettling. It is disturbing because we instinctively run from death. This image provokes on lookers to say, "What are you doing to her?" It seems like she is being drowned, but the truth is she's being delivered by God's covenant power safely into His hands. Baptism itself does not save, it is a picture of what Christ does. Baptism is the evidence of a clear conscience answering the call of God into His salvation.

On second glance, it captures a glimpse of what Christ's love & power is like. It reaches into the grasp of death to represent her submersion into the water, but it also protects and delivers. Submerged beneath the waters, her frailty & vulnerability is clear. Just as we are helpless in sins deadly submersion. The warm glow of light surrounding & embracing her as she waits to be lifted from the life threatening position is similar to the light of the Gospel shed into our hearts and made real by the Holy Spirit.

While beneath the water, split seconds become so much longer as it encloses about her. A pastor's strength, gently lowering her as a sinner condemned to die... the penalty for sin... into the waters that represent defeat and death.

He is Fully aware of her anxiousness and that she is trusting his hand. Trusting, he'll raise her up set free from death's grasp, washed & purified. And He too, knows he can and will do exactly that.

Jesus will baptize us also through the reality of death & raise us up into eternal life, delivered from its grasp, cleansed & made Holy. Those loving hands take us into and through the only thing that can deliver us from sins hold.. Baptism is a living picture contract of faith with God. That we will be delivered from Death.

Water Baptism also testifies of this inner spiritual death, burial, and resurrection to these **FOUR AREAS:**

Testifies:

1. To Satan – I no longer belong to him
2. To God – I now commit all to you.
3. To the World – I am committed to God.
4. To Myself – I hereby identify with Christ

Baptism does not save you but is necessary to the believer as an act of obedience; an outward sign of an inward work as circumcision was in the Old Covenant. Faith was and still is the legal tender. Faith validated circumcision and now validates water Baptism.

Romans 6:3-6:

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ 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.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Baptism is similar to a wedding where the Bride & Groom publicly exchange their vows. Without faith in the commitment, and their existing relationship, the ceremony is meaningless.

Colossians 2:10-15

¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority.

¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,

¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ *When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*

¹⁴ *having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.*

¹⁵ *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

The scripture declares baptism as the outer statement of an inner clear conscience to God. Like giving of marriage vows we are publicly declaring that we have accepted God's offer of salvation.

1 Peter 3:21:

and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is a physical picture of what God has done and will continue to complete in those who have received New Life.

Philippians 1:6:

⁶ *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

II. The Lord's Supper :(Communion)

The Lord's Supper is also the covenant that Jesus instituted. Jesus was crucified on Passover fulfilling the former covenant that came through Moses known as Passover. On the last evening in captivity the Lord commanded Israel to slaughter a lamb and smear it's blood on the door post to show that they were under a blood covenant and the angel of death would pass over them and spare their first born. The curse had come to Egypt and the only way to escape was to be under the blood. This last meal had exact commands that had to be carried out. These things were symbolic of the promises or covenant that God was entering into with the Jewish Nation. The Jewish people were commanded to maintain this covenant. It was called Passover. When Jesus was crucified on Passover, He fulfilled this covenant because He was the ultimate Passover Lamb. Now, it is not the blood of animals given up as a temporary solution, but the body and incorruptible blood of Christ given as an eternal and final substitution.

Luke 22:7-21

7. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover

lamb had to be sacrificed.

8. *Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."*

9. *"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.*

10. *He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters,*

11. *and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'*

12. *He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."*

13. *They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.*

14. *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.*

15. *And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

16. *For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."*

17. *After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.*

18. *For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."*

19. *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

20. *In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

When we gather and participate in the Lord's Supper, Christ partakes with us through the Holy Spirit living in communion with us. It is also a time when we "sup with Him" in His very presence because He is present in Spirit. This covenant celebrates His death which replaced the Passover lamb until He literally returns. There will also come a day when He shall come again and we will share in His supper in our resurrected bodies.

1 Corinthians 11:20,23-26

20. *Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new*

testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

23. For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,

24. and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said , "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

25. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

26. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This covenant proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. It looks to the second coming and the Marriage supper of the Lamb with his bride, which is the church. These events will be discussed in greater detail in the chapter "New Future."

Both Baptism and Communion are symbols of the promises that are yet to be completely manifested.

Keeping these covenants proclaims the gospel and the hope of His imminent return.

While the acts in themselves do not save you, they are necessary as acts of obedience to Christ's commands. We are saved by faith in His grace alone.

Other Sacred Acts of the Pastoral Ministry

Birth Dedication

Baptism

Marriage

Communion

Ministry

Ordination

Salvation

Anointing the Sick

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Genesis 31-50

Use the Bible Study tool as you read. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment: Return your completed form for credit. These completed assignments may be counted as a grade in both the I.S.O.M: Old Testament and New Testament Survey Courses.

1. What is water baptism?
2. Does baptism save you?
3. Water baptism symbolizes 3 things:
4. What does water baptism testify: (4 areas)
5. What does communion proclaim?
6. Discuss the importance of the Jews who kept God’s covenants in spite of great trials.
7. Remember the Martyrs who would not deny their faith and love for Christ unto their deaths.
8. Remember those who gave their lives to protect the integrity of the written word.