**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 04 May 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke 3:21-22**

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

**Baptism**

**(Part 3)**

Q: May a person who has not been baptized participate in Holy Communion?

* Yes, the United Methodist Church does not seek to close God's Table. We believe God’s Table is open to all who are willing to come and accept salvation.

**Revelation 3:20**

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

Q: Does baptism mean that I am saved?

* No. Salvation requires our acceptance of God’s grace and our trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

*“Baptism is the wedding ring of my Christian life. It’s the outward expression or the testimony of my relationship with Jesus Christ. In other words, baptism doesn’t make me a Christian, it’s an outward sign indicating that I’m committed to Jesus Christ for life”*

***Rev. Dr. Rick Warren***

Q: May I be baptized again if I don’t remember my first baptism?

* No, because baptism is an act of God’s grace that never goes away and God does it right the first time.
* If we decide to get rebaptized, we’re telling God “you’re not faithful to keep your covenant my parents made with you.”
* However, our side of the baptismal covenant with God will need **recommitment and reaffirmation**, upon reaffirming our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Q: How can I "remember [my] baptism and be thankful" when I was baptized as a baby?

* What we are called to remember reaffirms is the gift of God's grace that came through the act of baptism, not a particular event.
* Through appropriate annual remembrances and celebrations, our children are enabled to "remember" their baptism on the same level they "remember" their physical birthday.
* When the child becomes an adult, we never hear him/her wanting to enter their mother’s womb to experience being physically born into this world. The same can be done for baptism
* When the parents celebrate the date of the child’s baptism, they are helping the child to remembering the covenant they made with God

Baptismal Covenant Parents take for a child that cannot speak for him/herself

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**Parents and Godparents**

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Parents and Godparents

I do.

\*\*\*Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Parents and Godparents

I do.

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example he/she may be guided to accept God's grace for him/herself, to profess his/herself faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

Parents and Godparents

I will.

The Pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

The congregation will respond:

“With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that he/she may grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, and be found faithful in his/her service to others.

We will pray for him/her, that he/she may be a true disciple who walk in the way that leads to eternal life.

* Every year, the parents should remind the child and themselves about this covenant

God’s Covenant towards us is Everlasting:

**Genesis 9:16**

“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

**Isaiah 54:10**

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

God’s attitude towards those who do not keep their covenant (or promise) to God:

**Numbers 30:2**

“When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.”

**Ecclesiastes 5:4-5**

“When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.

It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.”

**Matthew 5:33-37**

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

* Based on these passages, should we make a covenant (or promise) to God?
* Should we avoid making covenants (or promises) to God?

Answer \_\_\_Yes or \_\_\_ No