

THE COMFORT OF BELONGING TO THE THREE-IN-ONE GOD

Romans 8: 1- 17; text Matthew 28: 19- 20

November 8, 2020

I. The Comfort of Our Baptism into the Names of the Three Person Who Make up the One True God

Romans 7:19 (NIV) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

- A. Consider how little progress we have made in doing what God commands us to do and in living how he calls us to live.
 1. Are we condemned to living destructive shameful lives that hurt and bring sadness to others and to ourselves?
 2. How can we keep trying to walk on water when we sink every time?
 3. How can God love someone who keeps letting him down?
- B. In our text, sometimes referred to as the Great Commission, we find comfort in Jesus' call for his disciples to make disciples of all nations.
 1. Disciples are learners.
 - a. The Greek word for disciple is mathetes,
 - b. It comes from the Greek verb mathano, which means to learn.
 2. As disciples we are learning to obey the will of God and what he called us to do.

Romans 12:2 (NIV) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. We have not arrived yet; we are learners.
- C. But we especially find comfort in Jesus' command to baptize these disciples into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 1. Before Jesus' disciples teach new disciples what God wants them to do, they must let these new disciples know who God intends them to be.
 2. That why before Jesus disciples can teach these disciples, they must baptize them.
 3. Baptism is God's sign and seal that if we truly believe in Jesus, he has washed away our sins and that we belong to him as his children.
- D. Baptism must be done in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 1. In baptism, each person who makes up the one true God puts his name on us and assures that we are and will always be God's own children.
 2. And in baptism all three persons who make up God's Trinity give us comfort, encouragement, and guidance as we try to live as his children.

Questions:

- 1) Do I struggle and often fail to live as God commands? In what ways? Have I ever been so frustrated with my failures that I'm tempted to give up? Have I ever struggled with how God could ever love a failure like me? Have my failures ever caused me to wonder whether or not my faith is genuine?
- 2) Why is it so important for me in these struggles to know and have God's guarantee that I am his child?
- 3) Why is it so important that all persons of the Trinity put their name on me and seal their promise to me?

II. Comfort from Being Baptized into the Name of the Father.

- A. Baptism in the name of the Father is his promise that he chose us to be his children.

Romans 8:15 (NIV) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

- B. God the Father chose us to be his children before he created the world.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

- C. God chose and predestined us in Christ.
 1. Before God created the world, he already knew that we would be dead in our sins and unable in and of ourselves to be his children.
 2. Way back then, he already had a plan to set us free from the power of sin and death and to make us his children.
 3. Before God made the world, he chose to send his Son to save us, and then he planned to send the Holy Spirit that we might have the Spirit of sonship and act like his children.
- D. Although we have responsibility to trust in Jesus as our Savior and to try to act as God's children, we have assurance that God the Father already predestined the outcome.
 1. If we truly believe in Jesus, the Lord promises us victory.
 2. As those who believe in Jesus, who struggle to live as he saved us to live, we can keep getting up and trying again, because we know our labor in the Lord is not in vain

Questions:

- 1) In all my failures and doubts, how does it comfort me to know that God, the Father chose me to be his child before he even created the world? How does it comfort me to know he chose me, and that I did not choose him?
- 2) How does it comfort me to realize that God chose me in spite of the fact that he knew I would be a sinner, and that before he created the world he already decided to send his Son to save me?
- 3) As I fail to live the life God calls me to live, how does it comfort me to know that God, the Father already decided before he made the world that I would be holy and blameless before him? How does this help me to keep trying?

III. Comfort from Being Baptized into the Name of the Son

A. Being baptized in God the Son's name means that his death as Jesus Christ is our death, and his resurrection is our resurrection.

Colossians 2:12 (NIV) 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.

B. Because his death is our death, his death totally covers the punishment for our sins.

Romans 8:3 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so, he condemned sin in sinful man.

1. So, those who are in Christ will not be condemned and punished by God for them.

Romans 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2. Our failure to obey God's law may condemn us, but Jesus death set us free.

3. The very law that condemned us because of these sins was itself nailed to Christ's cross.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NIV) When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled 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.

C. But we must never forget that Jesus did all this, so that we might live new lives as children of God.

1. We didn't just die with Christ, we also arose with him, in order we might live a new life.

Romans 6:4 (NIV) 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.

2. He saved us for the same reason that the Father chose us as his children, that we might be holy and blameless before him.

3. Jesus not only took care of our punishment for sin but also of sin's grip on our lives.

Romans 8:3b-4 (NIV) And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Questions:

- 1) Do I understand what it means to be one with Christ? How would I explain that to someone else? How is my unity with Christ symbolized both in my baptism and in my partaking of the Lord's Supper?
- 2) How does being one with Christ comfort me as I reflect on my sins and failures to live as God commands? Why don't I need to fear God's law and punishment?
- 3) Why is it important for me to realize that Jesus saved me from sin, so that I might live as God's child? How it encourage me as I struggle to live this way to realize that he left heaven's glory to make it possible for me to do so? How does it encourage me to know that by his death and resurrection he loosened sin's grip on me?

IV. Comfort from Being Baptized into the Name of the Holy Spirit.

A. To be baptized in the Spirit is to have the wonderful promise that God the Holy Spirit lives within me.

1. This is a promise all true Christians have.

2. We don't need to have a second Spirit baptism or a second blessing.

B. One reason this is so comforting is that the Holy Spirit helps us with our desires.

1. True Christian desire to live as God's children.

Romans 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

2. Yet, there are many things that can steal away that desire.

3. But the Holy Spirit give us back that desire.

Philippians 2: 12b- 13 (NLT) Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

C. The Holy Spirit also guides and teaches us as we seek to follow Jesus and live as God children.

1. To be a disciple is to be a learner.

2. God the Holy Spirit lives inside teaching us, using the Word he inspired.

D. The Spirit assures that in spite of our failures we are God's children.

Romans 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1. Sometimes our sins and failures cause us to doubt that we really belong to God.

2. Sometimes all we can see is that we are sinners.

3. But God's Spirit quietly reminds us, "No, you are the Father's child. You have a home in heaven."

Questions:

- 1) How comforting is it to know that God the Holy Spirit actually lives within me?
- 2) When have I struggled with selfish sinful desires that compete with my desire to be God's child? How comforting is it to know that God the Holy Spirit helps me as I struggle with this?
- 3) Do I struggle both to understand God's will for my life and to live as he wants me to live? How is it comforting to know that the Holy Spirit who guided the writers of the Bible is living in me, helping me to understand and to live as God calls me to live? How is it also instructive and comforting to know that the Holy Spirit lives in his church and uses his church to help me in this area?
- 4) In my doubts and fears, why is it comforting to know that the Holy Spirit lives with me to help keep my faith alive and assure me that I belong to God as his child and that I have a home in heaven? Can I remember a particular time when I was struggling with my faith and he assured me of this?

Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:17 (NIV) Beloved of God, that is what the Father predestined us to be; that is why God the Son died to redeem us; and it is to that glorious home that God the Holy Spirit is guiding us.

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.