

WORKSHEET FOR DISCOVERY LESSON 7

On the Meaning Holy Baptism for our Life

READ 1 Peter 3:18-22 (*here from the English Heritage Version*)

¹⁷ Indeed, it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, ¹⁸ because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, ¹⁹ in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. ²⁰ These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. ²¹ And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee^[a] of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

^a1 Peter 3:21 Or legal claim, or assurance

1. Read what God said at the time of the flood in Genesis 6:7. Do we most often think of the flood as an expression of God's anger or his grace?
2. Peter, though seems to argue that the flood was an expression of God's love, his Gospel. At the time that Noah lived, he and his family probably weren't the only believers on earth, but they were the vast minority. Threats to their faith were all around. How can we understand the water of the flood as a good thing, a saving thing?
3. How is the water of Baptism like the water of the flood? (v.21-22)
4. Read Genesis 7:22-23. What were the final results of the flood? In the same way, what does Baptism do to our sins?
5. Peter describes the salvation of Baptism as "the guarantee of a good conscience before God" (v.22). Why does he connect it to Jesus' resurrection? (See Romans 4:25)
7. **FOR THOUGHT:** If your baptism is the guarantee of a good conscience before God (and who doesn't crave a good conscience?)...
 - a. What are some marks of someone living with a good conscience?
 - b. What only can get in the way of a baptized believer living with a good conscience? (Note: The answer is not sin)
 - c. What reminds you of baptism every time you're at church?