**Readings: John 8:30-45 – 1 Cor. 10:1-12 – Titus 3:1-7**

**Singing: 419:1-2 – 402:1, 4, 6 – 255:3-4 – 149:1. 2, 6**

**God’s Token of Baptism**

**I. What it does not communicate.**

**II. What it does communicate**

**Quote from our fore-fathers**

*Therefore He has commanded all those who are His to be baptized with pure water (…) thereby signifying [picturing] to us, that* ***as*** *water washes away the filth of the body when poured upon it, and is seen on the body of the baptized when sprinkled upon them,* ***so*** *does the blood of Christ, by the power of the Holy Ghost, internally sprinkle the soul, cleanse it from its sins, and regenerates us from children of wrath unto the children of God.*

*(Guido de Bres)*

**I. What it doesn’t communicate?**

A. Around Baptism many *errors* developed

 1. that Holy Baptism washes away sin itself (q. 72)

 2. that Holy Baptism regenerates the persons baptized

 a. such *assume God regenerates His elect at Baptism*

b. though common in many Reformed circled, it must be rejected

 on the following grounds

 ● Jesus’ teaching in John 3 and 8

 ● Paul’s teaching in 1 Cor. 10:1-6

B. Conclusion: *Baptism doesn’t place your spiritually on the good and*

*narrow way but in His Word and through the token of baptism God meets us in our journey and commits Himself to us with all He has to offer as we are to travel to eternity.*

**II. What does God communicate to us in token of baptism?**

A. He communicates a *re-assuring message* to believers (q. 73)

 1. Believers are those who have *experienced the washing of*

 *regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:5)*

 a. this is *not worked by Baptism itself*

 b. the reality of this fact was confessed by those *who were baptized*

c. how did they know that this spiritual renewal took place?

d. how did Gospel address these persons regenerated by Spirit?

 2. What is the message God communicates in baptism to His people?

B. He communicates a *re-assuring message* to seed of the Church (q. 74)

 (next Lord’s Day, DV).

**Discussion Questions**

*1. Why does baptism function so rarely in the conscious life of the Church?*

*2. Reread the passage in 1 Cor. 10:1-12. If the Old Testament Church partook from Christ’s benefits (vs. 4) and yet were not saved (vs. 5), is this also possible for the New Testament Church? Compare this to John 15:2.*

*3. What hindrances or objections do you experience to believe that the Gospel message is relevant or applicable to you? Examine these against God’s revelation in Scripture.*

**Discussion Question to be used with your children**

*1. How many times does God do special things that involve water in the Bible? After making a list of them, discuss whether any of them relate to baptism.*

*2. Why did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he couldn’t enter the Kingdom of heaven without a new heart?*

*3. Does baptism wash away your sins?*