

Q. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

A. God has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ wash away our sins just as water washes away dirt from our bodies. But more important, He wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that the washing away of our sins spiritually is as real as physical washing with water.

(Heidelberg Catechism, 69-70, 72-73)

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 18

Congregational Prayer

O Father of Jesus,

Help me to approach You with deepest reverence,
Not with presumption, not with servile fear,
But with holy boldness.

You are beyond the grasp of my understanding,
But not beyond the reach of my love.
You know that I love You,
For You are supremely good and perfect in every way.

My heart should melt at the love of Jesus;
He is married to me, died for me, and raised for me;
He is mine and I am His.
I am never so much mine as when I am His,
Or lost to myself until I am lost in Him;
Then I find who I truly am.

But my love is frost and cold, ice and snow;
Let His love warm me, lighten my burden, be my heaven;
Let the mighty tide of His everlasting love
Cover the rocks of my sin and care;
Then let my spirit rise above those things
Which otherwise would ruin my life.

Make me fruitful by living to that love,
My character becoming more beautiful every day.
O Holy Father, look on me in mercy
For the sake of Your well-beloved.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

***Hymn 235**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One!

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present:
To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring!

New Testament Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Message

“THE ROCK OF DAVID’S STRENGTH”

***Hymn**

“By Faith”

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation’s grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God’s own hand
A place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus:

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul’s reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth. *Chorus*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name. *Chorus twice*

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***God Blesses His People**

2 Corinthians 13:14

***Hymn 734**

“Gloria Patri”

“DAVID’S ROCK OF STRENGTH”

Psalm 18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

2 Sam 22. Both retrospect and prospect. What about our last words? Beyond David’s own experience: v. 43, 49. Kingship as a typological institution. Rom 15:19 uses verse 49. Calvin: Christ as the substance. Our lives are not our past but our present-future in Christ. Col 3:3

I. DAVID LOVES GOD, HIS STRENGTH

1-3

A. David Loves His God

Calvin: “it is highly necessarily for us to consider what we are without God...we will seek nothing from God but what we are conscious of lacking in ourselves.”

B. God is Both His Defense and Offense

Eph 2:6; 6:17; Ps 144:1-2.

II. GOD HAS BEEN HIS SUPPORT THROUGH ALL HIS TRIALS 4-19

A. A Remarkable Deliverance Indeed!

2 Sam 5

B. The Reality in Christ Staggers the Imagination

Col 2:15

III. GOD DELIVERS THE ONE WHO LOVES HIM 20-30

A. David is a Faithful Covenant Partner

Deut 28:1-7

B. Where Sin Abounds...

1 John 1:7

IV. GOD IS DAVID'S STRENGTH NOW AND FOREVER!

31-50

A. God is His Strength Now

B. The Greater Than David Will Take Over

Conclusion