

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Ask Yourself. Do you *believe* Jesus came to cleanse you from your sin?

Let Someone Know. If you believe Him, say so. If you are not sure, ask someone to help you know.

Pray for Our FCCW Family. Ask God to give us wisdom to understand these biblical sacraments and power to live in their reality.

Homework for Next Week

Next Sunday we will accept new members. Please review these vows and come prepared to welcome them.

New members to FCCW take the following vows:

- I now *confess my faith in Jesus as the Christ and acknowledge Him as my Lord and Savior.*
- I also resolve to learn the will of God, known or to be made known, as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and to walk in the ways of the Lord.
- I do covenant with this church to attend its services, to support its activities and missions, to pray and labor for its growth in grace, and to walk worthily with you in its communion of worship and work.

The Membership of the church, likewise takes part in the covenant saying:

- We the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship, and welcome you with joy. We promise to pray for you, to watch over you, and to help you so long as you shall abide with us.
- May God grant that, loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth for the perfect fellowship of the saints in heaven.

Then the whole congregation along with the new members to agree:

- We covenant with the Lord and one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in His holy ways.
- We will strive to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only; to be firm in faith, quickened in hope, and constant in charity.
- We will also consecrate our time, talent, substance, and influence, as heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Amen.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
August 18th, 2019

Morning Service: Matthew 28: 18 – 20, Acts 19: 1 – 5, Colossians 2: 11 – 15

Baptism – Sacrament of Promise

1. What Is Baptism?
 - A. Baptism Is a *Christian Rite of Initiation*—It Marks Us as God's People.
 - B. Baptism Is a *Sign and Seal of God's Promise* to Unite Us with Christ.
 - C. Baptism Is a *Means of Grace*—It Changes Us and Keeps Changing Us.
2. Who is Doing What in Baptism?
 - A. God's Role—As Our Groom Jesus Uses Baptism to Cleanse Us.
 - B. Our Role Collectively as the Church—Keeping Baptism Biblical
 - C. Our Role Individually—Faith and Repentance
3. Christ Will Come for His Beautiful, Purified Bride.
 - A. We Are Awaiting His Certain Return.
 - B. What Does That Mean for Us?
 - C. What Should We Do About Now?

Concluding Prayer, “Lord King, You have instituted baptism for Your purposes to mark Your people as holy and consecrated as Your own. We belong to no other. Forgive us for living as if we did. Help us apply the cleansing work of Your baptism in our hearts and lives, we pray.”

Evening Service: 1 Corinthians 6: 1 – 11; 12: 12 – 13

Baptism – As Citizenship

1. Baptism Declares Our Citizenship in God's Kingdom.
2. Christ Is Our Victorious King Who Purifies and Cleanses Us.
3. We Live In the Reality of Our Baptism By Awaiting Christ by Faith.

Conclusion: The Scriptures teach us that we are different by God's grace because we have been washed by Christ in our baptism. This establishes our citizenship in the Kingdom of God. As a result we should live by faith in Christ longing for His return and the fullness of what has been signified and sealed in this sacrament.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God commands His people to repent and be baptized. His standing order for the Church is to make disciples by baptizing and teaching them what God commanded them. It is the New Testament sign and seal declaring, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24) It is also God’s way of declaring, “I will wash my people.” (1 Corinthians 6) Let’s explore this mystery together this week!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Matthew 28:18-20; Act 19:1-5; Colossians 2:11-15**. DISCUSS, what did Jesus command His disciples to do? How is Christian baptism different than John’s baptism? How does baptism point to Christ? How does it seal us as God’s people? PRAY thanking God for the gift of baptism and all His covenant promise.

Sunday PM

READ tonight’s passages: **First Corinthians 6:1-11; 12:12-13**. DISCUSS, What is the way out God provides to our presumption? PRAISE Christ for His grace. Ask Him to give us clarity and unity together.

Monday

READ **Matthew 28:18-20; First Corinthians 6:1-11; 12:12-13**. DISCUSS, Into what are we baptized? How is our union with Christ pictured and accomplished in our baptism? BEFRIEND someone today in the freedom we have in Christ. PRAY for God to show us His glory and faithfulness in baptism.

Tuesday

READ **Colossians 2:11-15**. DISCUSS, What is the circumcision of Christ? How are we buried and raised in Christ? By whose power is this done? To whose shame? PRAY, “Lord, forgive us for taking baptism for granted. Teach us to walk in the newness of life signified and sealed in our baptism into Christ.”

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 17:1-27; Colossians 2:11-15**. DISCUSS, What similarities and differences do you see in these passages? What is the relationship between circumcision and baptism? How does baptism fulfill circumcision? Why? PRAY, Ask God to help us understand His mark of being in His family.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 17:1-27; Acts 16:11-15; 25-34; 19:1-5**. DISCUSS, How does the model of circumcision inform our understanding of baptism? Who is getting circumcised? Who is getting baptized? Why? PRAY, “Jesus, empower us to love our families in Your power.”

Friday

READ **Matthew 28:18-20; Act 19:1-5; Colossians 2:11-15**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning this week about baptism? How are you improving your own baptism (if baptized)? If you have not been baptized, why not? PRAY thanking the Lord for the gift of His signs and seals of the covenant He has made with us. Thank Christ for fulfilling it.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Matt 28:16-20; Acts 16:11-15; 29-34; 19:1-5**. Come to worship tomorrow *asking the Holy Spirit to guide us together as a congregation*. Pray for our neighbors to know this joy.

Colossians 2: 11 – 12

“In him [Christ] also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”