



H2Oh!

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

Even though God has provided for all of our spiritual needs through His Holy Word, I prefer to hold on to the lies told by the devil, the world, and my sinful flesh. These lies give me no firm footing in the storms of this life. **In mercy, God continues to speak the Word, which grounds me in Christ, my firm foundation, so that I can receive from Him all that I need for life and salvation.**

Bible Words

[The Lord] is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
Psalm 62:6

From the Catechism

If Christ has already won full forgiveness and salvation for us, why do we need Baptism?

Christ has indeed atoned for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:22), reconciling the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:18–19). Through Baptism, He gives to us personally the forgiveness of sins that He acquired for all humanity. As such, Baptism is a Means of Grace (Titus 3:5–7).

See 1 Corinthians 6:11.

Question 309, *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* © 2017 CPH.

H2Oh! Safety: Built on the Rock

Matthew 7:24–27; Luke 6:47–49

The theme of Christ as a Rock runs throughout the Scriptures. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said a wise person builds a house on rock, a solid foundation. When storms come, the house cannot be shaken.

At first look, it appears as if safety is determined by our actions: if we do what Jesus says, we'll be safe, even when things get bad; if we don't, our houses will be destroyed by the floods and winds of life.

However, the text itself rebukes these thoughts. Spiritual health and safety are not based on our works but on Christ. Martin Luther said, "As a man is, whether believer or unbeliever, so also is his work—good if it was done in faith, wicked if it was done in unbelief. But the converse is not true, that the work makes the man either a believer or an unbeliever. As works do not make a man a believer, so also they do not make him righteous. But as faith makes a man a believer and righteous, so faith does good works" (AE 31:361).

The house built on the rock is stable because it is built on the foundation of faith, which trusts Christ for salvation. When people know Jesus is with them, suffering cannot drag them into despair. Without the foundation that comes through faith in Christ, it is impossible to endure the struggles of life.

A Good Flood

Ironically, Baptism, another sort of flood, establishes the firm foundation in Christ. Through Baptism, God drowns our old Adam and gives us faith in Christ, which builds our house on the Rock.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, build our faith in Christ, as a sure and safe foundation for life, now and forever. In His name we pray. Amen.

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