

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 5

Law/Gospel

Because I am sinful, I cannot find God on my own. **Though the Lord is everywhere, Christ locates Himself and His saving gifts for me in specific places: His baptismal font, His pulpit, His altar—wherever His Word is spoken, sung, poured, eaten, or drunk.**

Bible Words

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Mark 16:16

The Big Picture

After traveling over land, Paul and Silas sailed to Neapolis, a seaport where travelers often landed to connect to the Via Egnatia, the great military road. The Romans built this 696-mile highway from the Adriatic to the Aegean Sea in the second-century BC.

From Neapolis, Paul and Silas traveled to Philippi, about ten miles inland. Greek historian Appian described Philippi as the gate between Europe and Asia. Here, Paul preached the Gospel for the first time in Europe.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, guide us through Your Word and Sacraments to receive the gifts of our Savior, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

Lydia

Acts 16:11–15

On their second missionary tour, Paul and Silas traveled to Philippi, a prominent Roman city filled with many retired soldiers. Paul usually went to the synagogue first to tell the Jews that their Messiah had arrived, but Philippi did not have a synagogue. (The Law only required one if more than ten Jews lived there.) So the disciples of Jesus went to the riverside on the Sabbath, hoping to find a place of prayer.

The missionaries sat down and began talking with some women. They met Lydia from Thyatira, a worshiper of God who sold purple goods. “The Lord opened her heart” to hear the message about God’s love and forgiveness delivered through Christ Jesus (Acts 16:14). Lydia and her whole household were baptized. She insisted the disciples stay at her home, saving Paul and his friends from paying their own expenses.

The Holy Spirit gave Lydia faith in Jesus through His Word and Baptism, the ways He delivers faith and spiritual blessings to us too.

From the Catechism: Baptism

First

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)

Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

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