

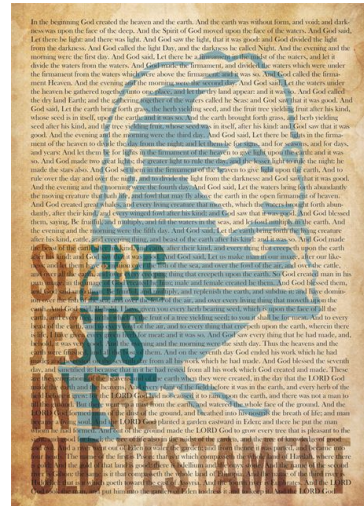


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin October 2016

Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin.

CBI exists to provide Christ-centered Bible instruction through distinguished experts who teach "Christ in Every Word" of the Old and New Testaments. Under the direction of Dr. Brian German and in cooperation with the Department of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, CBI offers podcasts, face-to-face seminars, and other special events to strengthen faith and spread belief in the one true God.



"For the whole Christ is in every word and wholly in each individual word. When He is denied, therefore, in one word, He is totally denied, for He is in every word." -Martin Luther (*Luther's Works*, 25:238).

Subscribe To "Christ In Every Word" Podcast

Click the button above to sign up for a weekly email update on newly published "Christ in Every Word" podcasts.

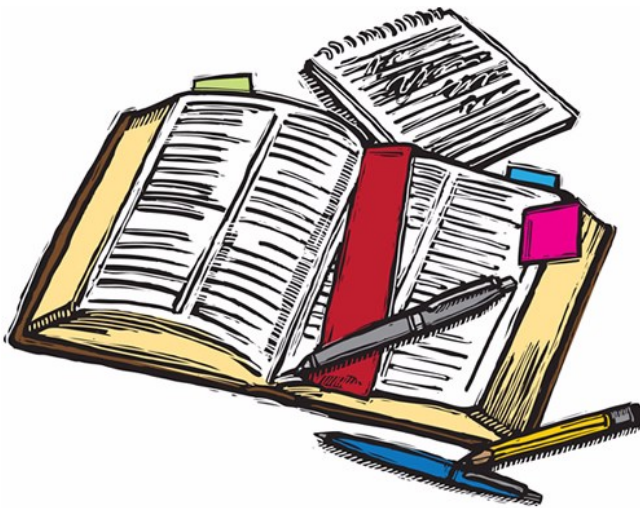
Upcoming Events:

Sixth Annual Hymn Fest

Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016

2:00-3:30pm

Chapel of Christ Triumphant
Concordia University Wisconsin
A freewill offering will be taken



Fall In-Depth Bible Studies

Mark your calendars for the remaining In-Depth Bible Studies!

Oct. 3 & Oct. 10 3:00-5:30pm

Oct. 17 6:30-8:30pm

Friends of Concordia Room

Concordia University Wisconsin

\$20 per class, per person

FREE for CUW Students/Faculty/Staff

Register now at www.concordiabible.org

These In-Depth Bible Studies are wonderful opportunities to learn from university professors and special guest lecturers about important topics related to the Bible and the Christian faith. We pray that you would consider joining us for this Christ-centered instruction. For more information, please call 262-243-2175.

Website:

Visit our website at concordiabible.org to learn more about CBI.

Podcasts:

CBI offers thirty to forty-minute long podcasts on biblical passages and religious issues that you can listen to any time through the CBI website:

<http://www.concordiabible.org/category/podcasts/>

Ask Dr. Saleska:

To ask Dr. Saleska a question, please visit the ["Ask Dr. Saleska"](#) page on CBI's website and he will get back to you.

Question: Recently I was listening to my favorite Christian radio show and the host was having a discussion with pastors of various denominations regarding certain beliefs and practices. One of the comments the host made was that he did not feel that baptizing a baby is necessary because babies don't know what it means. I have a lady friend who belongs to a non-denominational church who believes as the host of the program does. I need help with why we baptize infants.

Answer: There are a few basic items to keep in mind. First of all salvation is God's work, not ours: "... by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works..." (Eph.2:8-9). Grace leaves us out of it; we contribute nothing. If we were to do something, it would no longer be by grace. This flies in the face of sinful human beings who want, even demand, some credit for their salvation. We've all heard statements like this: 1) "I'm glad I chose Jesus," or 2) "I made the decision to accept Jesus," or 3) "God proffers the Gift, but you have to reach out and take it." The statements seem harmless but convey a misunderstanding of that important word "grace." All three of these appear true on the surface, but all require "work" on the part of the recipient. I want to show you how, perhaps, to respond to #3. You may say to the person, "you are right, you do have to reach out and take the Gift, the only problem is you don't have an arm. Faith, a gift, is in effect the arm which God creates, and which grabs hold of Christ and everything he offers."

The above is essential to an understanding of infant baptism. The statement by the radio host "that babies don't know what it (baptism) means" indicates that he believes something is required of the infant in order for baptism to be performed. However, that would invalidate the idea inherent in the important word "grace." Grace requires nothing.

With that as the backdrop, let's look at infant baptism. Infants are sinful by nature. They are born sinful. Some of the pertinent Bible verses are: Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:2-3, Jeremiah 17:9, and Proverbs 22:15. This is called original sin and infants are obviously born sinful. Some people insist that since infants are God's children they are as a consequence under God's grace and therefore do not need to be baptized.

That idea is not supported by one word of Scripture. Christ's work was for everyone, including infants. All that Christ did for sinful mankind needs to be applied to adults and also to infants. Jesus says: "No one (and that includes infants) comes to the father but by me" (John 14:6; cp. Acts 4:12, I Timothy 2:5). Baptism is the means by which the work of Christ is applied to infants. This is how God works faith in them, gives them that gift. Faith is not the same as "knowing" or "understanding." God is quite capable of giving faith to infants as well as to anyone else. God in effect speaks faith into existence--infant or adult.

All the passages in the Bible on baptism apply to infants as well as to anyone else. For instance, Matthew 28:19-20: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...." Those words "all nations" make no distinctions; they exclude no one. God makes no distinctions with regard to age, gender, race, etc. Why would anyone arbitrarily exclude a large portion (infants) of any nation?

Here are some thoughts from other baptism passages: John 3:3: "...except a man be born again (the Greek says 'born from above;' God performs this heavenly birth) he cannot see the kingdom of God." V.5: "...except a man be born of 'water and of the spirit' he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." In John 6:63 Jesus says that the words he spoke to them are spirit and life (John 6:63). Baptism is not just water, but water joined together with the word, the word which is spirit and life; or to put it another way, there is a promise connected to the water that makes it a baptism. The promise is that this is a "washing of regeneration" (Titus 3:5), a washing in which the Holy Spirit gives new birth and new life; and this excludes any work on our part. Only God can give this life, or as far as that goes, any life. This is the life that the Holy Spirit gives to infants who need it the same as everyone else. This is God's method of adopting people including infants into his family. We had nothing to do with our first birth, and we had nothing to do with our being "born again." This is God's work. Your baptismal certificate is your real "Birth Certificate." All by God's Grace!

Acts 2:38-39: "...repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (V.38) for the promise is to you and to your children ... "(V.39). No age is given; obviously infants are our children. It should be evident that God can give the Holy Spirit to infants and, in fact, the Holy Spirit is promised to them in this passage. Anyone who says that children can't repent should remember that repentance is also a gift (Acts 5:31, II Tim. 2:25 etc.).

Romans 6:3-5 says that when we were baptized, we were baptized into Jesus Christ and therefore were baptized into his death, and so also we were buried with him and were raised with him. Baptism literally hooks us or links us to the death and resurrection of Christ. It does the same for infants.

Colossians 2:11-13 in effect says that baptism is the New Testament equivalent of circumcision, and we know that circumcision was performed on the 8th day of the infant's life. Circumcision was to be a token of the everlasting covenant between God and his people (Genesis 17:9-14).

I Peter 3:21 says that "baptism saves." Certainly infants are included. All of these passages are in answer to the often made statement: "There is no passage in the Bible that says to baptize infants." The simple response to that statement is that there is no passage that says to baptize 30-year-olds either or for that matter 55-year-olds or any age, gender, race, etc.

There is much more that could be written on the subject of infant baptism. However, the importance of "grace" and "faith" in understanding this subject cannot be overemphasized. Our salvation from beginning to end is God's work. Obviously we should remember our baptism every day of our life.

Contribute:

If you find value in this e-Bulletin and other CBI offerings and would like to support our mutual desire to spread God's Word to wide audiences, please consider writing a check to Concordia University Wisconsin with CBI e-Bulletin and A913 on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

"Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament" photo courtesy of <http://www.prayercollege.org/tag/messiah>

Copyright © 2016 Concordia Bible Institute, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



MailChimp