



# The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

## Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313  
(920) 499-5677

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part VI

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We have been looking at the views on church authority. This week let us take a look at the Lutheran faith.

Lutheranism accepts the Old and New Testament as the inspired Word of God, and as the only infallible rule and standard of faith and practice (Smallcald Articles p. 476). Yet, they accept and confess the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian); and hold the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as the correct exhibition of the faith and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran faith, founded upon the Word of God also: The Smallcald Articles, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther. Bible only?

Lutherans teach: Justification by faith alone is held to be the central doctrine of the Word of God according to which all other doctrines are determined and developed. (Government Report of Denominations, Vol. 2, p. 835).

The Bible teaches: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). If the doctrine of "faith only" was true, it would save demons (James 2:19). "Faith only" is mentioned in the New Testament; but it teaches the very opposite (James 2:24-26). Many rulers believed on Christ, but were not saved (John 12:42-43).

Lutherans teach: The mode of baptism is non-

essential, and you can be baptized by sprinkling or Affusion (pouring). (Note under Answer to Questions No. 335, L.C.S).

The Bible teaches: The word "baptize" has never been translated anything other than dipping, plunging, or immersion. Baptism is called a "BURIAL" (Romans 6:1-4; Col. 2:12). Just as Jesus was buried in a tomb, so is the one who dies to sin in repentance, buried in waters of baptism. Baptism is a going down into and coming up out of the water (Acts 8:36-39; Mark 1:9-10). The early practice of the church was immersion.

Lutherans teach infant baptism. They say the Scriptures clearly teach that man is indeed born a sinner (Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:19; Genesis 8:21). They say, "Historically speaking, the rejection of infant Baptism rests squarely on the assumption that baptism is something man must do for God, in response to God's command. But the Scriptures teach that man is 'dead in transgressions and sins' (Ephesians 2:1). How can a dead man do anything for God? He cannot".

I have read my Bible carefully, and I still do not find any case where babies were ever baptized. It does not contain one command to any preacher to



baptize infants. Are we to base our faith (and practice) on what the Bible does NOT say, or what it says? I read that "faith cometh by hearing, hearing the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Jesus made a promise in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." In Acts 8:37, when a man asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" He was told, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." Faith must precede baptism! One must believe before he is ready to be baptized. But infants are incapable of believing and trusting Christ. Infants are incapable of confessing Christ (Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37). Confessing faith must precede baptism! Infants cannot confess Christ. The purity of little children is revealed in Matthew 18:3; Luke 18:15-17. Infants do not inherit the sins of Adam of their parents (Ezekiel 18:20); they have no knowledge of good and evil (Deut. 1:39). Through growth children learn to choose between good and evil (Isaiah 7:15-16).

I would like to ask a few questions concerning the teaching of infant baptism, and hopefully people will listen to the teaching of God.

(1) Sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4). So sin is a violation of law. It is something one does (Ezekiel 18:20, 30). So what does the infant do to be so sinful? What sin does an infant commit by being conceived? Where does the Bible say that babies are sinners?

(2) They teach that since the fall of Adam all infants born, are born in sin. Do you believe that babies who die at birth are eternally lost?

(3) The Bible teaches that "we are the offspring of God" (Acts 17:28); That God is "the Father of spirits" (Hebrews 12:9); and He "formeth the spirit of man within him" (Zech. 12:1). The baby's spirit comes from God, and if the baby is by nature a "sinner," then God would be to blame.

(4) One can locate many examples for the baptism of accountable persons in the Scriptures. Please give us book, chapter and verse for the authority of infant baptism? They say that infant baptism is a Scriptural practice, where does God command every infant born to be baptized?

(5) The sacrifice of Christ counter the effects of Adam's transgression (Romans 5:12-21). In fact, Christ is the "last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45-47). They quoted Romans 5:19 as proof that man is indeed born a sinner. If by way of Adam's transgression all men inherit a sinful nature at conception, then why do not all inherit the righteousness of Christ who died to counter such effects? Is Adam's transgression of greater power than that of Christ's act of obedience in dying on the cross?

They use Psalm 51:5 as proof that infants are born sinners. The text says, "In sin did my mother conceive me." It does not say "with sin did my mother conceive me." Some have brought this fact out by using parallel language. Notice: "I was brought forth in a potato patch, and in a field of spuds did my mother conceive me." Does that mean he was born full of potatoes? No, certainly not, and Psalm 51:5 does not teach David was born full of sin (cf. Psalm 22:9-10; 139:13-16).

To be a proper subject for water baptism a sinner must be taught. **Teaching** must precede baptism (Acts 2:14-41; 8:35-39). Infants are incapable of being taught the gospel. **Faith** must precede baptism (Mark 16:16). One must believe before he is ready to be baptized. But infants are incapable of believing and trusting Christ. **Repentance** must precede baptism (Acts 2:38). Infants have nothing for which they need to repent and are incapable of repenting. **Confessing** faith precedes baptism (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10). Infants cannot confess Christ.

The Bible is right! Which one will you take your stand with?

**(Part 7 of this article will be printed in next week's bulletin)**

---

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
STUMBLING BLOCKS AND STEPPING  
STONES ARE THE WAY WE USE THEM.

---

WHEN GOD MEASURES A MAN HE PUTS  
THE TAPE MEASURE AROUND THE HEART,  
NOT THE HEAD.