

**The Church and Its Sacraments** ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON By Alfred J. Buescher

Scripture—Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-28; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; 10:34-48; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. John refused at first, but Jesus insisted. As He stepped from the water, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended on Him like a dove, and a voice said: "This is My beloved Son."

At the feast of the Passover, Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is My body. And He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My blood shed for the remission of sins."

Jesus' last command was: "Go ye, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always."

Peter, preaching to multitudes, said: "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." About 3,000 souls were saved that day. MEMORY VERSE—Matthew 28:19, 20.

of the world." What a comfort those words must have been to those men who were to suffer persecution and martyrdom while teaching His word!

Multitudes of people came to listen to Peter preach, and after explaining to them of Christ and His saving grace, he exhorted them to "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

His message affected many so deeply that "about 3,000 souls" were added to them that day.

We may mention briefly the story which we have read before, but is always very interesting and instructive, of the Roman captain who was so devout that God heard his prayers and sent Peter to him to explain Christ Jesus.

Peter's answer to Cornelius is especially interesting because it seems to be his realization of Jesus' words that they were to teach all nations. It was, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

Paul, writing his first Epistle to the Corinthians, reminds us of the Last Supper and of the proper manner of partaking of that sacrament.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come. . . . But let this man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup."

**THE CHURCH AND ITS SACRAMENTS**

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.

Scripture—Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-28; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; 10:34-48; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

By Newman Campbell

What is a sacrament? To the smaller children the word probably means nothing. However, it may be explained to them in very simple language.

A sacrament is one of the religious ceremonies in Christian churches, as instituted or recognized by Christ. The word comes from the Latin Sacramentum; from Sacrare, in English, sacred. It is therefore a sacred rite of the church.

Christian parents have their infants baptized. For older persons the ceremony may be performed after they repent of their sins and acknowledge Christ as their Savior. The ceremony then means that those baptized are forgiven and enter a new life in Jesus Christ.

Before He began His ministry Jesus went to John the Baptist and asked to be baptized. John objected because our Lord had no sins to wash away, but Jesus insisted, saying, "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness."

"And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

Another great sacrament is the Lord's Supper, so-called in

memory of the night before Jesus' betrayal and death. He and His disciples were gathered together to observe the Passover. Jesus knew it was the last time He would be with them until His Resurrection, but apparently the disciples did not realize what was so clear to Him.

Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and handed it to his companions, saying, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup of wine, offered thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the new Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

The manner in which baptism and the Lord's Supper are ministered in different Christian denominations is not a matter that needs discussion in

our lesson.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he quotes Luke 22:19, when Christ said "this do in remembrance of Me." In remembrance of Christ! How many of us think of Jesus and meditate on what He means to us and what we can do in our lives to show Him we are really trying to please Him?

Jesus' last command to His disciples was after His resurrection, at His final parting from His earthly companions. He said:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you and martyrdom while teaching

**The Golden Text**



The Baptism of Christ.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—Matthew 28:19, 20.

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- |                                     |                                  |
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| 2 IN AND OUT THE WINDOW             | 12 BLUE TAIL FLY                 |
| 3 SAILING SAILING                   | 13 CAN CAN                       |
| 4 THREE BLIND MICE                  | 14 SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN         |
| 5 OLD OAKEN BUCKET                  | 15 LITTLE BROWN JUG              |
| 6 GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME             | 16 LONDON BRIDGE                 |
| 7 GOOD NIGHT LADIES                 | 17 DRUNKEN SAILOR                |
| 8 GRANDFATHERS CLOCK                | 18 MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN |
| 9 I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD | 19 WHERE IS MY LITTLE DOG GONE   |
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