



"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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COMMUNION MEDITATIONS

Text – I Corinthians 10:16

Here Paul calls the Lord's Supper by several names. It is the cup of blessing. Why? It is the communion of the blood of Christ! It is partaking of the bread, which we break? It is the communion of the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one loaf – **vs 17**.

What is Paul saying? He is saying that when we partake of the loaf we are sharing together in all the benefits of the shed blood and broken body of Christ. This is **the** cup of blessing. It is **the** cup for there is no other cup, which can give the blessing, as does the blood of Christ.

The blood makes us nigh to God (**Ephesians 2:13**). The blood of His cross brings peace with God (**Colossians 1:20**). The blood obtained eternal redemption for us (**Hebrews 9:12**). The blood of Christ purges our conscience (**Hebrews 9:14**). The blood gives boldness to enter into God's presence (**Hebrews 10:9**). The blood sanctifies us (**Hebrews 10:29**). The blood makes us perfect (**Hebrews 13:20**). The blood cleanses us from all sins (**I John 1:7**). The blood makes us be overcomers (**Revelation 12:11**). His blood was shed for the remission of sin (**Matthew 26:26**). His blood gives life (**John 6:54**). He illustrates this principle by two illustrations when a Jew ate of the altar, He enjoyed the benefits of the altar. After his sacrifice was accepted he could eat of it showing he now had fellowship and peace with God. Likewise, the heathen are fellowshiping with demons when they ate of that which was sacrificed to idols. Thus He discouraged eating of meat offered to idols for He does not want us to have fellowship with demons.

This principle being true, we are sharing in all the benefits of His shed blood when we partake of this table. No wonder He calls it **the cup of blessing** and the **sharing** of the body of Christ.

In light of this, imagine men being so seeker-sensitive they would dare set the table of the Lord in a side room so that seekers or those of sectarian churches

would not be offended! I wonder to whom they wish to "proclaim the death of our Lord until He comes?" Imagine the irony of men offering the Lord's table with all the benefits only once a month, a quarter or a year lest it be commonplace!

We wish to enjoy such fellowship or communion in Christ's blood each week as the Apostles ordained. They came each first day of the week to break bread. The very verse that tells us they met tells us why they met. It was to break bread (**Acts 20:7**). The cup of blessing was the main thing. Let us always know that the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.

Paul makes it emphatically clear in verses 20 and 21 that we cannot be a partaker of the Lord's table and the table of demons. This provokes the Lord to jealousy – **vs 22**. This verse shows the Lord is a jealous God concerning our Lord's table. We should see He is the Lord of His table and it is an ordinance with which we should not trifle. This table is Holy.

~ Prayer ~

Oh Lord,

We are now around the table as He commanded. It is indeed His table and He is the Lord of it. We are His guests partaking of all the benefits of His shed blood. What a joy this is. As we are coming boldly near you by His blood, we thank you for the forgiveness of our sins. We praise you that we are cleansed, and purged from an evil conscience and have peace with you by His blood.

Lord, thank you that we are sanctified and made Holy by your Son's blood. Thank you that you sent Him to redeem us and have given us new life and made us perfect in your sight by His blood.

Lord, your Son purchased the Church with His own precious blood. Help us to be overcomers by His blood. We know that we are enjoying all these things at His expense and your grace. As we commune in partaking of this cup of blessing, unite us as one loaf.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Text – I Corinthians 11:20-34

These verses are often read at this hour each Lord's day. When I commune, I like to think of this text and it's four basic instructions.

The Command is to:

1. **Look Back:**
To His death for us – **vs 23-25**
2. **Look Forward:**
Proclaim His death until He comes for us – **vs 26**
3. **Look Inward**
Examine ourselves – **vs 28**
4. **Look Outward:**
To discern the needs of the Lord's body; the Church – **vs 29**

Paul rebuked the Corinthian Christians when he said, "when you come together therefore into one place, you cannot eat the Lord's Supper."

That's why they gathered but they couldn't actually do it because of their party spirit and shameful behavior of not looking to one another's needs. They had a love feast proceeding the Supper and some were eating and were full while others were left with nothing. Paul had to show the unselfish way Jesus instituted the Supper. Jesus gave Himself, yea His very life for others.

So Paul cautions that if we selfishly partake of the Supper, we do not follow the Spirit of the Lord's Memorial. If we partake without thinking of the needs of the Church, we are partaking to our own condemnation. To partake in such an unworthy manner is to be guilty of crucifying Him again. It makes His example and sacrifice a sham when His followers behave in such a way toward one another.

One is to discern or judge or make a distinction of the Lord's body. It is a time not only of examining ourselves but the needs of others. To not do so is to partake of the Supper in an unworthy manner and make us guilty of His body and blood.

The Corinthians were ignoring one another's needs. As a result, some were weak and sick among them. Some had even died!

"How" we partake of the Lord's Supper is as important as "if" or "when" or "why" we partake of the Supper. God chastens a Church that communes in an "unworthy manner."

So Paul instructs them after this admonition to wait for one another so their coming together would not condemn them.

What a shame that men would come together to celebrate His unselfish death by not including all the Church which He purchased with His own blood. A selfish love feast.

What an oxymoron that is.

~ Prayer ~

Lord,

Today, help us not only to **look back** to your Son's selfless cross, to **look forward** to His glorious coming and **look inwardly** to examine ourselves, but help us **look outward**, with concern for the needs of those who commune with us!

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Text – Acts 20:7



As I sat in the congregation this past Sunday partaking of the benefits of His blood, I was thanking God for giving His Son for my salvation.

My thoughts went to the millions around the world who were at that very hour dwelling on Jesus' death on the cross. Then I thought of our friends who belong to fellowships that did not observe this feast each Lord's day. How often sectarians have told me it would become "common place" if taken each week.

I marveled then at the **wisdom of Jesus** having His Apostles ordain traditions in the Church - **II Thessalonians 2:15**.

I thought of the passages, which showed that the Lord's Supper was a corporate event, not a private affair. The Lord's Supper demonstrates our faith and proclaims Jesus' death until He comes.

Then my mind again wandered to those who do not proclaim His death each Sunday through His memorial. I envisioned their assembly.

There was a great song service, outstanding praise bands and praise leaders leading the choruses, outstanding soloist or specials and then an exciting sermonette with much humor on "How to have friends who like you" or some other practical subject that makes one feel good about oneself. There was a beautiful choir number and a prayer of fine oratory. Then, after the last Amen, the congregation buzzed with excitement. I saw all this in a moment's time.

Then my mind thought of the many visitors present in such a gathering. They never heard about Jesus' death! His sacrifice was not mentioned! His blood was not even referred to in the pulpit! Even the songs seem to dismiss His death. There was no old white-haired Elder publicly proclaiming Jesus' death or God's grace for sinners. There was no mention of Jesus' suffering for us. His agony was not alluded to and no one became conscious of their sins nailing Jesus to the tree.

Where was the glorying in the cross? What was there to draw men to God? The message of Jesus' crucifixion that He said would draw all men to Him, was absent!

All of this filled my mind in only seconds as if it was a vision. What a contrast it was to the service I was experiencing.

The emphasis of the songs and the communion was Christ crucified for sinners! They may have had a "feel good" party, yet I was enjoying a feast thinking what all His death meant to me.

Oh, the wisdom of Christ in the weekly reminder, "**This Do in Remembrance of Me.**" It is specifically His death He mandated to be remembered.

Those who do not have this weekly reminder can go to Church and not even have His death brought to this remembrance.

I thought not only of this wisdom, but **Jesus' love**. How could I think of Calvary without thinking of His love and care for me?

We love Him because He first loved us. Oh, we need that weekly reminder that He died for us because He loved us.

I John 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren."

His sacrifice reminds me to love the Brethren.

And then I thought also of **Jesus' faith**. What faith Jesus had to tell twelve men in that little borrowed room that this Supper was to be done until He comes.

Imagine a man naming his own memorial and it being done for 2,000 years!

The memorial is not a statue, a physical picture, or a beautiful place set-aside in His memory. Oh, no. It is merely a Supper of twelve that has grown to millions of participants each week.

This alone is evidence that Jesus was no mere man. This Supper makes no man rich nor enhances anyone's pride. No profit fuels this memorial. It's just a memorial of the Savior reminding us He loves us and died for us.

It is a Supper that allows us to proclaim His death until He comes.

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

~ Prayer ~

Oh Lord,

The wisdom and love and faith of Jesus is seen in this feast. This weekly feast reminds us of these things.

Help us to have faith in Him, love as He loved us and be wise enough to walk with Him until He comes.

We pray in Jesus' name, the Lamb that was slain,

Amen.



Text – Luke 22:19-20

What are we doing here today? Is it all that important to come together on the first day of the week to break bread? Yes, it is important for this appointment was commanded by our Lord and observed by His Holy Apostles.

We are commemorating the greatest events that have ever occurred. The Supper commemorates the death of the greatest personage who ever lived and the day commemorates His resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week. The event on Calvary commemorates His great love for us and it is united with the third day resurrection, which demonstrates His great power. It is fitting that the Lord joined the Lord's Supper with the Lord's Day.

No man took his life from Him. He had power to both lay it down and take it up. Though He was nailed to the cross, it was His love that held Him there.

The 72,000 angels that He said He could call were on stand-by in case of emergency. But the emergency was our salvation. What was needed was a spotless innocent lamb to give His life for the sins of the world.

What more important event could we possibly be commemorating? His virgin birth? That is essential to the story. His ascension? That is also essential.

However, it is His death we are specifically told to remember. He chose His own memorial. It is fitting that we should be here on the first day of the week to commemorate it. His work was finished on the cross but

His resurrection was the proof God accepted His sacrificial death. His Holy Apostles whom He promised to lead into all truth gathered on the first day of the week to remember Him and we keep the tradition that they delivered to us as we are told to do.



~ Prayer ~

Oh, Holy Father,

We thank you for this beautiful and meaningful feast which commemorates the greatest of all events that ever occurred. This event saved our soul and gave us hope of life everlasting.

The death of your own dear Son was the price you were willing to pay to redeem us. We praise You and realize that it was His death alone that provided us the hope of eternal life!

It is in Jesus' name that we thank you,

Amen.

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~ These four articles first appeared in the ~
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