

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 05.24.10

"REMEMBERING CHRIST AND HIS SACRIFICE FOR US"

1 Cor. 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Cor. 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Cor. 11:25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

1 Cor. 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

The older you get the more your perspective in life changes. How many times in my life when I was younger holiday's like Memorial Day meant nothing more to me than getting a three day weekend. I don't have anyone in my immediate family that served in the military, but as I have grown older I have gained such a great appreciation for the men and women who have served in our armed forces so that people like me can freely share the good news of an awesome Savior. No matter what some people would try to do today in denying our countries history that is undeniably founded as one nation under God, I will forever be grateful to those who have fought to maintain our rights as a nation birthed by godly leaders.

Just as when I was younger and had no concept of what our men and women in the military had done for me, I also had no knowledge of the greatest sacrifice that was ever made for all of mankind. That sacrifice was Jesus Christ laying down His life so that we could be free from the oppression and bondage of a dictator named satan. As time has gone by there are those who have put there own opinion on what Christ has done, just as there are those who are trying to deny this countries foundation in God. But this week I want to share from scripture one of the most important things believers can do in honoring the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every time we take communion it is to be a memorial of what He has done. Religion has tried to make it a focus on man, but as we will see Jesus said it is to be a memorial to Him.

Every time a believer takes communion the most important words as stated by Jesus Himself to the apostle Paul were, "Do this in remembrance of Me". Even as a child going to church with my grandparents not knowing what communion was about I can always

remember those words on the front of the communion table. Yet so often in churches all across our land it is not Jesus that is put in remembrance, instead we are taught to focus on our shortcomings or failures. Take a look at the following verses of 1 Corinthians 11.

1 Cor. 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1 Cor. 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Here is where man has stepped in and taken a wrong approach when it comes to receiving communion. Paul begins to speak of taking communion in an unworthy manner, and he speaks of each person examining himself when taking communion. One thing that is forgotten is that Jesus said the emphasis of communion was to do this in remembrance of Him, not us.

To partake of communion in an unworthy manner in context to what Paul was taught about communion from Jesus Himself means we are not examining ourselves in HOW we are taking communion. It became as it has for many a religious ritual in which Jesus is not being remembered for what He did. Thus when taken without understanding and in honor of His sacrifice we take it in an unworthy manner. In other words we are not giving the "worth" or placing the proper "value" on His sacrifice. Paul goes on to describe this for us.

1 Cor. 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1 Cor. 11:30 For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Notice the Apostle Paul's words here in verse 29. He tells us very clearly that partaking of communion in an unworthy manner means we are not discerning the Lord's body. This means we are not remembering what He accomplished for us. Communion is a time that we are reminded of all that Christ has done. Because of His sacrifice for us, we have been cleansed of all sin, and we have been provided healing for our bodies. We have been given a covenant with God. Paul goes on to tell us in the following verses that when one does not properly discern (understand) the sacrifice of the Lord's body, it is for this reason that many are weak, sick, and die early.

1 Cor. 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1 Cor. 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

In verse 31 he continues by talking about judging ourselves, and in doing so we would not be judged. You must remember that this cannot be

taken out of context to what Paul has already said. Jesus again said that when we partake of communion remember Him, not your past. Notice carefully here that Paul tells us if we judge ourselves we would not be judged. When we judge ourselves we are chastened by the Lord. The word chastened here means to educate or correct. What Paul is saying to believers is when we are reminded of what Christ has done discerning what He accomplished for us through His death, we are then acknowledging our rightful place in Christ. To be condemned with the world means to not be a partaker of the rights you have as a child of God.

Those who do not know Christ are those in the world Paul speaks of who are going to walk in the curse that is on this earth because unless they accept the payment Christ made they are still condemned, judged guilty for their sin. But a believer in Christ has had their sin judged through the blood of Christ. When we judge ourselves properly we do so by seeing ourselves as a new creation in Christ Jesus, no longer a sinner, and one who now has a covenant with God. This is what grace is all about.

Grace means we got what we did not deserve. We received new life by no merit of our own, and thus God gave us what we did not earn. When you truly understand grace it does not free you to sin, it frees you from sin. The more you see yourself as one with Christ the more you begin to walk free from sin. The more you see yourself as one with Christ the more you will walk in your rights as a child of God. Anyone who says they are saved by grace therefore it does not matter what they do does not understand grace at all. Yet it is just as wrong to focus on us rather than remembering what Christ has done for us. You don't have the ability to change you, nor to heal yourself, but God does. Through communion we honor the life Jesus gave by reminding ourselves of what He has accomplished for us.

1 Cor. 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

The first part of communion is partaking of the bread, which is symbolic of His body that was broken for us. In taking communion the word itself means to be "one with". At the whipping post where His body was torn through the scourging He endured, Jesus paid the price in full for us to be healed as scripture clearly states, it is by His stripes that we are healed. It is our faith in Him and Him alone that will bring us into the healing He has provided. Remember Paul said the reason many are weak, sick, and die early is because they do not properly understand this sacrifice Jesus made.

1 Cor. 11:25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

The second part of communion is in partaking of the cup, which represents the blood Jesus shed to fully redeem us and provide for us a new covenant with God. This is what Jesus states is the significance of the cup of communion. When we do this in remembrance of Him, we are reminded that because of His shed blood God has cleansed me and made me His own. I now am a covenant child of God. I have been given His righteousness, therefore I have rights as a child of God. This is no different than someone who is born into a prominent family who due to that birthright, not what they have done, they have rights that others don't have just as we have been born into the family of God.

As you partake of communion make it what Jesus said it should be, a memorial to Him. Doing so is what helps us to become partakers of what He provided for us. So as often as you partake of the cup and eat of the bread, "Do this in remembrance of Him."