

Remember Him

First Baptist Church Peachtree City

September 3, 2017

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

INTRODUCTION

Today, I invite you to turn in your copy of the Scriptures to 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. In the New Testament church, there are two specific ordinances, or practices, that Jesus left for us to follow. In baptism, by immersion, we follow Christ's example and identify publicly with His death, burial, and resurrection. We do it individually, though normally in the context of a church family. At the Lord's Supper, or Communion, we follow Christ's example corporately, **together**...to remember His death and sacrifice for our sin that brought us salvation.

What do you normally think about leading up to and during communion?

The Apostle Paul writes this letter to believers in Corinth, a city of 600,000 located in Greece. He started this church on his second missionary journey (**Acts 18**). Influenced by wealth, immorality and pagan worship, these believers were easily distracted...**just like us**. We all have messes...some are just more public than others. **Theirs messes were public**.

Living out their faith was difficult in a culture where economic status, pride and immorality were celebrated, even in many religious expressions. Attitudes and practices in the church were not consistent with the faith that they professed. The church had become a place of divisions and worldly partying even during the most sacred moments, like the Lord's Supper.

Paul...with great clarity...reminds them that all of us are sinners and come to salvation by God's grace, through faith in Christ and His death on the cross. As a result, we are either in Jesus' family or not. Prior religious labels, economic status and class systems have no place in the Christ's church. **There are no 'hyphenated' Christians**.

His instructions were not new, nor complex. They simply needed to be re-focused... not on a ritual, but on the **Savior**. They needed to **remember Him**. **Let's read God's Word**.

23 For I received **from the Lord** that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "*This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.*" **25** In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*" [**symbolism...Jesus was with them...not 'transubstantiation' or 'consubstantiation'**] **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. **27** Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **28** But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. **30** For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

31 But if we judged ourselves **rightly**, we would not be judged. **32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined [**here**] by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. **33** So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

UNDERSTANDING

A. **Who** are we to remember? (v. 23-26)

1. Jesus, who is our eternal **Creator God**. (v. 23) [**Colossians 1:15-17**]

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

2. Jesus, who is our **Savior**. (v. 24-26a) [**Colossians 1:18-22**]

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. ²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach... (**A new covenant...once for all.**)

3. Jesus, our coming **Lord** (v. 26b) [**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**]

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Ritual is not the focus of the Lord's Supper...only Jesus is worthy. Remember Him.

B. **How** are we to remember Him? (v. 27-34)

1. With a proper perspective of our life in view of His sacrifice. (v. 27)

a. We were guilty of His body and blood...made worthy only through His salvation.

b. What is eating / drinking in an unworthy manner? **Ungrateful hearts and lives.**

2. With a proper perspective of our sin in view of His holiness. (v. 28-30)

a. God takes our sin seriously. Some were sick or even dead.

b. All sin is judged. We can reflect and repent now...or let God deal with us.

3. With a proper perspective of ourselves and others, in & out of God's family. (v.31-34)

a. There are always consequences for sin...but His discipline is meant to move us toward maturity and self-discipline so we become a better disciple and witness.

a. We were all lost...that is the common factor for all people. [No classes]

b. We all have messes [Self-examination...reflection... and repentance take time]

Reflection and repentance are serious and do not need to be rushed.

APPLICATION

(1) Reflection may take time...but forgiveness occurs in an instant.

a. John 3:16 – You are invited to believe in Jesus and receive His gift of salvation.

b. 1 John 1:9 – Only His grace and forgiveness of our sin can make us worthy.

(2) Do you regularly reflect on the Gospel of Christ and His impact in your life?

a. A grateful heart for God's Salvation is the beginning place to living for Him.

b. The Lord's Supper is our opportunity to focus and realign our hearts with His.

So let's take some time now to reflect...repent as necessary...and to remember Him.