

Before we come to the LS this morning I would like to share about something that has bothered me for a long time about the LS. I cor 11, is the chapter that we nearly always go to when we are looking at the LS. We are all very familiar with this.

But it is really really important to recognise the context, the reason why Paul wrote it in the first place. Paul is actually writing to the c, church about their bad practices around the Lords supper. For me, the problem I have is with the words.... examine yourself and remembrance which give a negative feeling...

Summarising verses 17 ~22, we see Paul delivering a strong complaint against the C church for not respecting the LS through disunity, selfishness, drunkenness, etc etc. All of this happening while supposedly they were partaking of the LS! In v. 20, Paul actually writes it is not the LS because of their terrible behaviour!! They had totally destroyed ignored its meaning and value by their behaviour.

Verses 23 to 26 are very familiar as these are the words we use often at communion and then Paul goes back to talking of the consequences of their terrible behaviour from the opening verses. v27 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.

Something very important to recognise its not the person who is unworthy here but their manner or behaviour at the LS!!! So examine yourself, in the next v28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. This really means test yourself, are you really thinking in the correct way of the value and significance of the LS and of what you are about to do.

Test yourself, based on what Paul was writing about in v17~22. 1. Are you a Christian, and do you believe the bread and wine represent the body and blood of Jesus. 2. Do you recognise and want to participate in the Lords death until he comes again, 3. Are you doing what you can to maintain the unity of the church and want to share the communion together and 4. Are you sober!!

Its nothing to do with are you worthy, or have you confessed all your sins!! We never, never come to God on the basis of our own worthiness anyway. This is about the manner and attitude understanding you come and celebrate the LS.

As Paul wrote in ch 5v7\8 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed ^efor us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, or festival. Celebrate the Feast!! Realise

that you are coming to a feast, realise the love that was poured out on your behalf, recognise the sacrifice that Christ paid and when you do this, your response is to celebrate. Examine or test yourself to see if you really get what it is all about. Celebrate is positive happy joyful!!

The second word that for me at least gives a wrong emphasis in English at least is remembrance in 23\24. I always associate R with gardens of R of wars and tragedies all very negative and only looking back!!

But the HS does not want us to only look back and simply recall or relive what happened at the cross....there is a looking forward part as well,the cross changed everything in the way we live now and in the future.....

Just think of the thief on the cross when he asked JC to remember

^{lk 23 v42} Then he said [k]to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Remember and do something!

In Irish English we often say “Ah remember me to auntie peggy”.....Then we say to the person “Mary asked to be remembered to you”

In the OT in exodus when God remembered his covenant with Abraham, he did not just recall it but remembered his promise and acted, his actions in the present were influenced by the past. There is no harm in reminding God in a reverent way any promises God has made to you, he will not be offended!

So when we take the LS, JC is saying remember me and all that I taught you, remember me as the reason you share fellowship, remember me thru your week!! I am always with you!! So at the LS we remember, not to acknowledge what has happened, but to enjoy what is, and bring the benefits of the past to be enjoyed in the present

Maybe that has helped deal with some confusing or negative things that we have picked up in relation to the Lords supper. Now on to the positive in taking or participating or joining together in the LS.

Now the bread represents the body of JC whipped for you, 39 lashes to secure our salvation and the healing prophesied is Isaiah 53 3v4&5

He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

These are such beautiful verses lets try and read them together in both languages, just think and remember it is Jesus, the lamb of God, and our Lord saviour brother its all about Jesus.....

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

The greatest error of the C was not actually their bad behaviour, but that they did not recognise that the bread was representing the body and suffering of JC for their healing..v29&30!!

Something I felt while thinking of all this two Sundays ago was “you do not truly value something unless you understand its meaning”x2

The C did not understand and honour the fact that the bread represents JC body wounded for their healing. They were weak and sick and not did not understand the power of the LS. They did not get the full message of the cross, that JC died for their sicknesses and deliverance as well as their salvation.

I believe this is the way we should celebrate the LS....Paul wrote in ch 5 “For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed [\[e\]](#)for us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, or festival.” Lets celebrate the Feast together!!

1 Cor 11 v23 & 24R

Now we come to the wine substitute, that represents the blood or lifeforce of JC the son of God who came from 2000 years ago to die in our place the perfect substitute.

Blood sacrifice seems a long way from our 21c cultural experience, most have of us have probably not killed a chicken or goat for food. Some of us are vegetarians. Yet this was and is the way we receive forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to Father God by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus.

What are some of the benefits in sharing in the blood of Jesus,

Eph 1v7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace that he lavished on us.”

Redeemed = to buy back or regain possession of, the price was the blood of JC. We were purchased by Father God at a very high price, the suffering of JC.

Heb10v19\22 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

We can now freely enter the very presence of God, God as our loving father or daddy! We can come without even a thought about being unworthy because JC has even sprinkled & cleansed our conscience so we come to celebrate and remember what he did for us. Lets accept what he has done for us.....

Rev12v11 ¹¹“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death”

Him here is the devil, overcame means to conquer and the they is us you and me.

We can overcome by the blood of Jesus. The blood of JC does not often get spoken about but here before we take the cup together I would like to share a testimony about the blood.

A few months agoTestimony!!

Finally 1 Cor11v 25&26R