

Wednesday, 13th May 2020



THE CANDLESTICK

This do in remembrance of me (I Cor. 11:24)

Thomas Watson was a 17th century Puritan. He wrote concerning the Lord's Table, "It was wonderful love that Christ should rather die for us than for the angels that fell. They were creatures of a more noble extract, and in all probability might have brought greater revenues of glory to God; yet that Christ should pass by those golden vessels, and make us clods of earth into stars of glory - Oh, the hyperbole of Christ's love!" ... "The *hyperbole* of Christ's love!" ... The unimaginable, indescribable, inexpressible love our Saviour had for lost hopeless and hell-deserving sinners!

During the week I was listening to a discussion on the Lord's Table, and one of the pastors casually referred to whether we should celebrate it each Lord's Day, or once a month, or even less frequently. Personally, I agree with Spurgeon who said to his congregation, "My witness is, and I think I speak the mind of many of God's people now present, that coming as some of us do, weekly, to the Lord's Table, we do not find the breaking of bread to have lost its significance — it is always fresh to us ... it always seems equally appropriate to come to the breaking of bread. ... They who once know the sweetness of each Lord's day celebrating His Supper, will not be content, I am sure, to put it off to less frequent seasons."

I trust that's how we feel. Yes, we miss the meeting of God's people, but especially coming around the Lord's Table. It is a time when, - and an ordinance where, - the Redeemed meet to remember the Saviour in the way He appointed. It is the *highest point* of our fellowship in Christ.

The Lord's Table reminds us to focus faithfully and often upon the work of Christ at Calvary in purchasing our salvation. By His dying on the cross, He took upon Himself all our sins that we would be forgiven, For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God (I Peter 3:18). ... The Table illustrates how His body was broken, and how His blood was shed for us. His perfect sinless form was marred more than any man (Is. 52:14), He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (Is. 53:5). All our sins were laid upon Him.

His agony on the cross was more than any of our words could describe for He died in the sinner's place, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (Jn. 3:16). ... God hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (II Cor. 5:21). ... We are saved because the Son of God, - died for us ... - *Jesus died for me*, "Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe" ...

It is a thing most wonderful,
Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from Heaven,
And died to save a wretch like me.

While the rest of the world has no time to listen or to give Him a thought, at the Lord's Table the Lord's people remember with gratitude the debt we are privileged to owe our Saviour.

But the Table is not all about looking back, - important as that is, - for the Lord's Table also points us ahead as we shew [*proclaim*] the Lord's death till he come (I Cor. 11:26). ... The Lord's Table is where we affirm the good news of the Gospel that Jesus died for us, and He arose from the dead on the third day ... and He is coming back some day to reign on this earth!

Indeed, there is no greater joy than to know sins forgiven and that our Lord is, - at this very moment, - preparing a home for us in Glory! ... That's what kept Job going for despite his afflictions from head to toe, he was absolutely confident, **Job. 19:25** *I know that my redeemer liveth*, and that *he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26* And though after my skin worms destroy this body, *yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27* Whom I shall see for myself, and *mine eyes shall behold*. ... It is like how Isaiah also prophesied, Thine eyes shall see *the king in his beauty*: they shall behold the land that is very far off (Is. 33:17).

That is why we come to the Lord's Table ... Looking back, yes ... and looking forward also ... for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

O Lord Jesus, how long, how long
Ere we shout the glad song ...
Caught up through the clouds with our Lord into glory,
When Jesus receives His own.

I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.
II Timothy 1:12