

THE LORD'S TABLE: **Ye do show the Lord's death till He come**

I Cor. 11:23 the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. ²⁶For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

If you were asked what is at the centre of your faith, how would you answer? ... Why are you a Christian? ... I would like to think it would be because Jesus is at the centre of your life, - He is of the greatest importance to you.

If that is so, and I trust it is, how did it happen? How did you become a Christian? What one factor caused you to ask the Lord Jesus to become your Saviour? ... We are all different, and we might put it in different words, but basically the one reason we became a Christian was when we realised Jesus *actually*, - really and truly, - died on the cross to take away our sins.

Normally, death is the final act. When you die, that's it ... there is nothing more you are able to do ... but not so with Jesus. He died, but following His death, He rose from the dead and became alive. Over a period of forty days, His resurrection was witnessed by more than five hundred people (I Cor. 15:6). During that time, He gave His disciples in-depth teaching, [Acts 1:3](#) ... [speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God](#) ... Then, before He ascended to Heaven, He left them with the promise of His return.

His disciples went back to Jerusalem where about one hundred and twenty of them met for prayer, in the expectation of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The lives of each of those people gathered had already been changed because of the Lord Jesus. Each of them knew He had died for them and risen again, - they were convinced of it. And each of them was in that meeting expecting God had more to do among them.

When we meet around the Lord's Table, we meet in both commemoration and expectation, in obedience to the command of the Lord. We are here because of what the Lord Jesus has done for us. ... He left Heaven and came to this world, knowing the full extent of the Fall. It is not 'in Him' to overlook our sins, - whether we mean to commit them, or whether we do them out of ignorance ... it is all the same to Him for sin is sin. And He takes it more seriously than any of us *ever* do for He knows sin's full extent.

As we come to the Lord's Table, here must be our purpose, [Jn. 12:21](#) [we would see Jesus](#). ... If our minds wander, bring them back. In fact, don't let them wander for Christ is to be our Focus, otherwise we are doing a great injustice to His Name.

... First of all, let's begin as we consider ...

THE SAVIOUR'S PRESENCE **I Cor. 11:23** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you ... The Lord's Table is not a 'manmade' institution ... No Reformer and no church council established it because it is the God-given opportunity for His people to remember the Saviour in the way He has instructed. We are at this Table because it is the Lord's will for us to remember ... The bread and the cup remind us of *His Service*. Jesus came to earth as a servant to serve His Father, and the pinnacle and ultimate purpose of His service was **Mt. 20:28** to give his life a ransom for many. ... Following His resurrection, He commanded His disciples, **Lk. 24:39** Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have ... He came, not to be a sovereign, but a servant.

And in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup we are also reminded of *His Sufferings*. As the bread is broken symbolically, His body was broken literally ... As the cup is poured, it represents how His blood was shed ... **Is. 52:14** his [face] was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men. ... **Is. 53:5** He was wounded for our transgressions ... The word for 'wounded' (*chalah*) means profaned, defiled, polluted, desecrated ... At Calvary, Jesus was condemned by our sin because He became defiled and desecrated. ... And **Is. 53:5** He was bruised for our iniquities ... Again, our translation does not do the word justice for it means He was *crushed, trampled upon, broken*. ...

He had no sin of His own to be punished for, but He suffered the whole penalty of the complete judgment our sins required. ... It is an awful thought there are men and women in Hell who are suffering forever because they rejected Christ Who was willing to save them. Their suffering will never end but if they had trusted in Him, He would have born their sin and He would have endured their punishment ... but their stubbornness prevented them.

He did not suffer in vain though, for at Calvary the cross became the altar upon which the Father offered His Son as the Sacrifice, the Lamb. ... He Who knew no sin, - Who never committed a single act against His Father's perfect will, - He was made to become sin for us when all our sins were *piled* upon Him ... And in the most horrific act He suffered more than anyone but God can ever know. ... *His Service, His Suffering, His Sacrifice, His Submission* to His Father's will ... all because **Jn. 3:16** God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ... What He did

for us came at such a heavy price ... “Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe”. ...

The Saviour’s Presence.

THE SAVIOUR’S PROMISE **The Lord Jesus** the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is **my body**, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament [*covenant*] in **my blood**: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.*

Up until now, Calvary is the greatest event this world has ever known ... and there is going to be another great event, the likes of which has never happened before. Every time we take of the bread and the wine is one less occasion before Jesus comes again, and this Table is pointing forward to His return. He is coming back to this earth. His people will rise to meet Him in the clouds, and He will lead them to that city from which He will reign, the city of King David, Jerusalem.

The world does not believe, but then neither did they believe the first time He came. Whether the world believes it is neither here nor there ... but for God’s people, it is a great day we are looking forward to ... the day our Saviour returns,

Our Lord is now rejected,	The heavens shall glow with splendour,
And by the world disowned,	But brighter far than they,
By the many still neglected,	The saints shall shine in glory,
And by the few enthroned;	As Christ shall them array.
But soon He’ll come in glory!	The beauty of the Saviour
The hour is drawing nigh,	Shall dazzle every eye,
For the crowning day is coming	In the crowning day that’s coming
By-and-by.	By-and-by.

... That is what the Word of God teaches. And at the Lord’s Table we look back to Calvary, while also looking forward to His return, **Rev. 1:7** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.* There will be nobody miss this great event for there will be no distractions. No matter what is happening, all eyes will see Jesus ... and either they will rise to meet Him, or they will run from Him and try to hide. ...

When we gather round the Lord’s Table, we are looking forward to that day ... We don’t know when it will be but for over two thousand years the Church has been expecting Him. ... What we can see though, is the signs of His impending

return around us, - among the nations and in creation. ... The first time He came the people didn't realise Who He was, and they crucified Him ... but it will be different the next time, - they won't be given any option other than to receive Him. Here is the process God is working to ... **Hosea 3:4** For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim [*household idols*]: **5** Afterward shall the children of Israel return, - that is where they are at the moment. God's plan is in progress for the children of Israel are returning from across the *diaspora*, and [*shall*] seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days. ... And preceding those latter days, - leading up to them, as Zechariah prophesied, Jerusalem will be **Zech. 12:2** a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, - nobody will know what to do with the problem of Jerusalem and the people of Israel for **3** all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

But here is God's promise, **Zech. 12:10** I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him ... **13:1** In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. ... God's grace will descend upon His ancient people and save them ... Keep watching the signs for here is what God is working towards ... in that city, **Is. 65:19** I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. **20** There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. **21** And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. **22** They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. **23** They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. **24** And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. **25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

That is the inheritance we are looking forward to each time we come to the Lord's Table ... **I Cor. 11:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. ... As His people, we gather in **the Saviour's presence** ... the Saviour Who has redeemed us by His grace, cleansed us from our sin ... and we wait in anticipation of the fulfilment of **the Saviour's Promise**. Amen.