

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

3 31 26 V1n47 JESUS: “THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME!”

EASTER — in a waiting room, on a golf course, or in a restaurant, etc. ... through the years, when various folks would see me, (and knowing that I was a pastor), the question was OFTEN something like this: **“So, I guess you have lots of big plans for Easter at your church, right?”** My usual response: ***“Actually, we just focus of JESUS, His death and resurrection; and, so we simply observe the LORD’S SUPPER!”***

Invariably, they were left puzzled; and sometimes they repeated their question ... assuming that I had not heard them correctly! So, I would kindly repeat my answer.

I UNDERSTAND their confusion; because I also grew up celebrating Easter. We had Easter egg hunts, Easter bonnets, (Well, the girls did!) On ‘Easter Sunday’ Pastors read Scripture about the resurrection of Christ; and then from those Scriptures, they preached about the ‘Easter Event’ as if they were one and the same. **[IF YOU USE the BIBLE as your one source of accurate, infallible information for truth, you know that they are not ‘one and the same’ ... in fact, Biblically and historically they are totally, 100%, UNRELATED!] BUT AS A KID and in my youth,** I believed my Sunday School teachers and

Pastors. And like the masses of today, I never once ‘checked out what I was being taught ... with the Word of God! However, during college days *I did not know the term, ‘Sola Scriptura’— but I now know that is what I began to embrace:*

“That Scripture is the only infallible voice in the church ...” (A.A. Hodge) **Moreover, I began to realize this**

CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TRUTH: NEITHER YOU NOR I have any authority to add to or subtract from the Word of God; and therefore, we must be on a lifelong pilgrimage of studying the Word of God and of seeking to heed the Word of God! (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:13-17)

From the Word of God, I discovered that when it comes to responding to and celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — **New Testament Christians simply obeyed Jesus and celebrated the New Testament Passover, or LORD'S SUPPER!** (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

MOREOVER, I discovered that the LORD'S SUPPER has a singular FOCUS— Christ's DEATH, with His resurrection and second coming clearly implied! THE LORD'S SUPPER is profound beyond words to describe. **I ALSO DISCOVERED**

THAT the New Testament Christians DID NOT celebrate Christ's death and resurrection by any of the following: Lent, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Fourteen Stations of the Cross, Service of Darkness, or Service of Shadows, Holy Saturday, Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunrise services, Passion Plays, and/or Easter Sunday! **WOW! NONE of these are in the New Testament;** they

are all manmade religious customs and traditions which have basically come to the 21st century through Catholicism. In fact, many of these beloved customs were borrowed from other religions and then Christianized. AMAZING! None of these are in or from the Bible; but MORE AMAZING is the DEEP COMMITMENT of the masses to these beloved traditions.

EVEN SO, JESUS STILL CALLS HIS CHURCH to genuine, profound, and ultimate CELEBRATION of the most significant of all events in history with His words: "... **This do in Remembrance of Me!**" **THEREFORE: LET US 'MAKE MUCH OF' THE LAMB OF GOD!**

WITHOUT any artificial enticements, the pure Word of God and the blessed Holy Spirit are ready to carry us to great heights of wonder and awe **as we come to the LORD'S TABLE, this Sunday, APRIL 5, during the 10:45am worship service.**

IN PREPARATION for the LORD'S SUPPER on APRIL 5, let us all meditate:

What Christ meant to do on the cross, He accomplished! He did not die in vain. He died with no part of His work left undone. He did not die to merely make sinners savable. **He came to earth, specifically to SAVE HIS PEOPLE from their sins, Matthew 1:21.** JESUS died to vanquish sin by Himself— once and forever. **One death. One sacrifice. One atonement. One cross. One price and purchase. One cross and crown. One death and deliverance.**

One, and only once! THUS, the Savior said victoriously, **“It is finished!”**

I. One Person — “HE!” Who was He? He was very God of very God. He was commissioned by the Father to vanquish sin (John 6:4). He was the Messiah, pledged by God's covenant to deliver His people (John 1:41). He was chosen (1 Pet. 1:20). God didn't send a mighty angel. He didn't send a mighty army. He didn't send a mighty man. **GOD sent His Son — Himself!**

II. One Period — “Appeared Once!” JESUS appeared as a babe in Bethlehem; the Infinite linked with the Infant. He who laid out the heavens, now lay upon a woman's breast. He invaded time and history. He came as the God-Man. He was unique. No one was like Him in the past. No one was like Him in the present. No one would be like Him in the future. He appeared once. **He is “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6).** He is King of kings. He chose not to stay on His throne. He came to earth for one brief period of time.

III. Grand Purpose — “To Do Away with the sins of His people, the whole world over — not just Jews; but Jew and Gentile!” Sin is a deadly reality (Rom. 3:23). Sin cannot be tolerated by a just and holy God. Sin, producing enmity between God and man, requires atonement for the restoration of sinner's relationship with God (Rom. 5:10; Rom. 5:18; 6:23; 8:1).

As we gather at His Table; As we partake of the elements, representing His body and blood given in atonement for our sin, let us receive with assurance the benefits of His grace. As believers we have been redeemed and restored in our never-ending relationship with the Prince of Peace!

IV. One Payment — “Once for All . . . the Sacrifice!” In the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered to satisfy God’s righteous wrath, who was present in judgment and mercy. A blood sacrifice was demanded. This had to be repeated time and again. **Jesus’ perfect sacrifice accomplished “ONCE FOR ALL” all God demanded as the payment for our sin.** No longer would other sacrifices be required.

AT HIS TABLE, we remember all Christ has accomplished for us in His sacrificial death— NOT ONLY SINS FORGIVEN; BUT RESURRECTION LIFE and an eternal future of being with THE LAMB OF GOD, FACE TO FACE! *(Portions of the above is edited from Jim Henry, In Remembrance of Me.)*

PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER! Whenever we come to the Lord's Supper, we should remind ourselves of why we come and what we expect to find here.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Lord on the same night in which He was betrayed. It is to be observed in His church to the world's end, for a perpetual remembrance of Him and to show forth the sacrifice of Himself in His death. It was instituted also to

encourage saints in the belief that all the benefits stemming from Christ's sacrifice belong to them.

Furthermore, it is meant to promote our spiritual nourishment and growth in Christ, and to strengthen the ties that bind us to all the duties we owe to Him.

The Lord's Supper is also a bond and pledge of the fellowship which believers have with Christ and with one another.

In the supper the body and blood of Christ are present to the faith of believers, not in any actual physical way, but in a way of calling us to remember the once and for all sacrifice of our LORD at Calvary.

Our faith is called upon to focus upon the COMPLETE work of redemption— the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and HE IS COMING BACK!

In short: The Supper is a remembrance of Him. [Luke 22:19] The Supper is our communion with Him. [1 Cor. 10:16] The Supper is our fellowship with the body of Christ and especially the local body. [1 Cor. 11:18, 20] The Supper is a commemoration of His death. [1 Cor. 11:26] ... AND floods our hearts with RESURRECTION and REIGNING with Christ!

SHOULD I TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Christ's call to the Supper is for me if I am presently repenting of my sin and trusting Christ for salvation.

WHY SHOULD I COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE?

Christ commands me to come! With this command He gives me this promise: • **As surely as I see** with my eyes the bread broken and the cup given, so I know for certain that Christ became a real human being and poured out His blood on the cross. • **As surely as I take** the bread and cup in my hand and taste them with my mouth, so I know for certain that Christ nourishes and refreshes my soul with His crucified body and blood. [Mt.26.26-28; 1 Cor. 11.23-25]

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO EAT AND DRINK THE LORD'S SUPPER? It means that I accept and receive with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ for me. **It means that by believing,** (BELIEVING: WHICH is by GOD'S sovereign and free grace (Ephesians 2:1-10), **I am forgiven all my sins and now have eternal life.**

This is not magic. Eating the bread and drinking the cup does not wash away my sins. Only Christ can remove my sins, and that happens when by His grace, HE QUICKENED ME, HE GAVE ME LIFE, and I put my faith in Him. [YES, I put MY FAITH in Him! It is MY faith, for HE GAVE IT TO ME, Ephesians 2:1-10]

WHAT BENEFITS THEN DO I RECEIVE BY COMING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER? My sins are exposed for what they really are before a Holy God.

My heart is freshly inflamed with love for Christ. I am reminded of all that He suffered for me. My faith in Christ is strengthened. My hope that one day I will live with Christ is

made more certain. Although His resurrection body is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and I am still here on earth — the Lord's Supper reinforces His promise that He is coming back; AND that He will one day raise my mortal body and take me home to heaven to be with Him for all eternity!

WHAT IF I KNOW THAT I'M NOT PERFECT?

I come for I know myself to be a sinner, yet come trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sin. I come for I know myself to be weak and in need of Christ to strengthen my faith and I desire Him to enable me in growing Christlikeness.

WHY DOES JESUS USE BREAD AND DRINK?

Jesus is teaching me that, just as bread and drink nourish my temporal life here, so His crucified body and poured-out blood, quickened to me by the indwelling Holy Spirit, truly nourish my spiritual life.

Jesus uses this visible sign and pledge to assure me that all He has done for me in His perfect obedience, suffering, and death is certainly mine. I take the bread and the cup in my own hand and with my own mouth and am freshly assured that what Jesus accomplished for sinners at Calvary is given to me personally.

WHAT SHOULD I THINK AS THE ELEMENTS ARE DISTRIBUTED? As I take the bread, I remember to thank God that Christ took up a human body; that He was tempted just as I am; that He was willing to suffer for me; that He lived

a hard life in a poor family and that He was willing to be misunderstood.

As I take the cup, I remember to thank God that Jesus poured out His blood for me; that He saves me from the guilt of my sin; that He sets me free from the power of sin; that I now have the righteousness of Christ and that I will live and reign with Christ forever.

SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION: The Penitential Psalms: Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 // Isaiah 53, 55, 59 // Gospel of John 13-17 // Romans 3, 6, 8, 12 // (Portions of the above article is edited from an article by Pastor John Olson)

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARENTS —

Are your children, saved, baptized believers? Spend time HELPING THEM to be prepared for SACRED WORSHIP at the LORD'S TABLE!

Are they yet outside of Christ? MAKE SURE you help them to know that THE LORD'S TABLE is ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST! SHARE the gospel with them!

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SUNDAY SERVICES: APRIL 12, 19, 26

[1] Sunday School at 9:30am: Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **[2] WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

FOR APRIL 5TH, SEE NEXT PAGE!

**** SPECIAL SERVICES: APRIL 5 — 9:30am Church-wide BRUNCH;**

10:45am — Worship Service, with THE LORD'S SUPPER

**** APRIL 19 — 10:45am Worship Service & LORD'S SUPPER /// HOME GROUPS!**

**** APRIL 26— 5:00PM WORSHIP SERVICE**

EVERY SATURDAY * 8:00 AM,** — Men's Bible Study!
(Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!) **APRIL 4, Romans 8**

NEXT Ladies Bible Study 4/8/26 @ 11:00 AM – Read Acts 8

*****TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00am**

Young Adults ... Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhi's home!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm, MEN'S Prayer Service // YOUNG FAMILIES SERVICE

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD by MAIL or by ONLINE:

BY MAIL (checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 /

TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>