

“The Cup of Blessing”
Sunday, February 28, 2016
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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

From our Tenets of Faith

Communion - We believe that communion is an ordinance of the Church. An ordinance is simply that which has been commanded. Scripture tells us that as often as we eat the bread (which represents His body) and drink the cup (which represents His blood) we do show forth the Lord’s death till he comes. We believe this ordinance to be largely symbolic in nature.

Instructions for the Church for Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23b-32

Jesus Gave Instructions for Communion - Matthew 26:26-28

The Good News

The Lord’s Supper is a visible representation of the Good News of the death of Christ for our salvation.

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread” 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NKJV).

“What you must solemnly realize is that every time you eat this bread and every time you drink this cup, you reenact in your words and actions the death of the Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master returns. You must never let familiarity breed contempt” 1 Corinthians 11:26 (MSG).

“Do This in Remembrance of Me”

Isaiah 53:4-5 “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 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.”

A divine exchange took place on the cross - Punishment vs. Forgiveness

- The nature of the exchange is this: All the evil came upon Jesus that all the good might be made available to us. (Forgiveness and Healing)
- The first exchange: The punishment for our peace was upon Jesus.
- Jesus was punished that we might be FORGIVEN.
- The result of being forgiven is that we have peace with God.

The Punishment of our sin was upon him – So we can have peace with God.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...” Romans 5:1 (KJV).

- Once our sin issue is dealt with God’s way, there is peace with God.

Peace Through the Blood of the Cross

“For it was the good pleasure of the Father that in him should all the fullness dwell; and through him to reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens” Colossians 1:19-20 (ASV).

“And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and unrepensible before him: if so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister” Colossians 1:21-23 (ASV).

We Can Be Totally Forgiven and Totally Delivered

Ephesians 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding...”

Paul said, “I am carnal sold under sin” Romans 7:14b (KJV).

How can we be forgiven?

Jesus was punished with the punishment that was due to us.

Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven.

A divine exchange took place on the cross - Wounded vs. Healed

Isaiah 53:4-5 “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 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.”

- **“By his wounds we are healed.”**
- Discover what God has provided through Jesus on the Cross.
- The question is not “Does God want to heal me??”
- The question is “How can I receive the healing that God has already provided for me?”

Jesus Healed ALL

Matthew 8:16-17 “When evening came, people brought to him many who were possessed by demons. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all those who were sick. This was to fulfill what was declared by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “It was he who took our illnesses away and removed our diseases.”

- Quoted from Isaiah 53 – a total physical application
- No distinction between healing and casting out devils

- Turn your eyes to Jesus; He is the answer.
- Look away from yourself.

1 Peter 2:24-25 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed.’ For ‘you were like sheep going astray,’ but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

- As far as God is concerned it is already done.
- Healing is a part of our salvation.

Salvation is everything that has been provided by the death of Jesus on the cross.

“Made Well” = saved

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made well. Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole” Acts 4:8-10 (KJV).

- Salvation produced wholeness
- Neither is there salvation in any other name.
- From the moment you believe until you pass on into eternity you are moving in salvation.
- Provided by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross

We must not neglect so great a salvation.

“...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will” Hebrews 2:3-4 (NKJV).

- There are people who refuse salvation and those who neglect salvation.

“...Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” 1 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV).

- Even as the Lord passed over the Israelites, saving them from physical death through the sacrificed lamb, so by Christ’s infinitely greater sacrifice we are saved from eternal destruction.

Examine Yourself

“Whoever, therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord” I Corinthians 11:27- 28 (ESV).

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

- Who is really worthy to come to the Lord’s table?
- It is about coming in a worthy manner by examining ourselves.

Jesus gave his life for our sins that we might be forgiven.

Matthew 26:27b-28 "...Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Communion = sharing or participation

WE remember his death when we take communion, and we also experience Him as active and present in our midst.