

LESSONS FROM THE CROSS

Scripture reading: 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

Intro: The Word does not specify any particular number of times that a believer should observe the Lord's Supper. Nor does it say, When. It does indicate that this should be continuous in the life of every child of God. And, in doing it, we are to "show the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor. 11:26b).

Therefore, there must be something very beneficial for every believer in the constant remembrance of the death of Christ.

We must also assume that the lessons to be learned are inexhaustible.

Tonight, before we observe the Lord's Supper, I want to point out five things about the death of Christ which the Word teaches are important for us to know. To help you to remember them I have chosen five words which begin with the letter, L.

I. LOWLINESS. Cf. Phil. 2:3-8.

The death of Christ should always remind us of the "lowliness of mind" which caused Him to go to the Cross in utter obedience to the Father. And this is to characterize our walk before God.

II. LIFE. Cf. Rom. 6:1-6, 11-13; esp. v. 4, "newness of life."

The emphasis in the passage is that it is a life of deliverance from sin and unto righteousness.

III. LIBERTY. Cf. Gal. 1:3, 4.

Ours is a liberty from "this present evil age" and all that is a part of it.

IV. LOVE. Cf. 1 John 4:7-11.

V. LORDSHIP -- cf. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20
Rom. 14:8, 9
2 Cor. 5:14, 15

Our Lord is Lord over us in two ways:

- 1) For our obedience.
- 2) To exercise sovereignty over our lives. Cf. Rom. 8:32.

Concl: May these truths be in our hearts as we come to the Lord's Table tonight.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, or
WHY DID CHRIST DIE?

Intro: The purpose of the Lord's Supper: "This do in remembrance of Me" (1 Cor. 11:24b).

The elements make it even more specific: the bread and the cup point to His death.

Since this was to be observed over and over, our Lord was indicating two things among many others:

- 1) This is a subject which the child of God must never get away from. It is healthy for us spiritually to think much about the death of our Savior.
- 2) This is a subject which can never be exhausted. We will always be able to see greater facets of this wonderful and amazing truth.

And so we need to ask, "Why did Christ die?"

I have already indicated that this subject is inexhaustible, and so it cannot be covered in one message. But let me point out five of the important aspects of the answer to this question.

- I. If we were to list the reasons in order of importance, it seems that there would be little doubt but that this would come first: Christ died in order to do the will of the Father.

Cf. John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

When Peter sought to defend the Lord with his sword, the Lord said to him, " . . . the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11b).

And it is in this connection that Peter says, "For even hereunto were ye called: Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21).

And so coming to the Lord's Table should always cause us to give ourselves anew to do the will of God. Cf. Rom. 12:1, 2.

- II. Secondly, at the Lord's Table we are to be reminded of the love of God for us.

Paul wrote in Rom. 5:7, 8, "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love

toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Think of that for a moment! And add John 3:16. Then read also Rom. 8:32, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?"

So the Communion Table should be a place where our fears are quelled, and our hearts are quieted. Do we doubt the love of God for us now? We often do. That is when we need to go back in our thoughts and in the Word to the Cross of Christ. The love of God never changes. It is the same right now that it has always been.

- III. No account of the Cross would be complete without a reference to the Gospel message.

WE ARE
PROCLAIMING
THIS AS
WE OBSERVE
THE
LORD'S
SUPPER.

"Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3).

He "put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Heb. 9:26). Paul wrote, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7). And in 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things . . ."

Just this morning I read, "If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

Should this not make us worship the Lord?

As I have said before, this is not only what the Lord was willing to do, this is what He had to do -- so great was my need, and yours!

- IV. Then, as a consequence, we have this truth: The Lord Jesus came, and died, and rose again, that we might share in His life.

Cf. John 10:10; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 5:12a.

What does this mean?

It means that all of my insufficiency is made up for by the sufficiency of Christ. Have you forgotten this? Do you need to be reminded of this tonight? What are your needs? It is all met abundantly in Christ.

But there is one more that I want to mention.

- V. We observe the Lord's Supper as a reminder that the Lord Jesus is coming back to earth again.

If we worshipped only a dead Christ, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "we are of all men most miserable," most to be pitied!

This would be nothing but a time of terrible despair and gloom and hopelessness. In fact, there would be no reason to observe it at all!

But we worship a resurrected Christ, a coming Christ, One who is in Himself our blessed Hope!

Tonight we are declaring the Lord's death "till He come"!

This should cause us great joy because it means the culmination of all that the angels sang about on that day when the Lord Jesus Christ was born!

Cf. the extent of the blessings to come as stated in Eph. 2:7, "That in the ages to come he might shew . . ."

Concl: And so in coming to the Lord's Table tonight we should be . . .

- 1) Prompted to do the Lord's will,
- 2) Reminded and comforted by the Lord's love for us,
- 3) Worship Him for the forgiveness of our sins,
- 4) Praise Him for the sufficiency of His life, and
- 5) Look forward with great delight to His coming.