

## MAKING KNOWN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Intro: This is the meaning of showing "the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor. 11:26b).

The NASB uses the word, "proclaim."

It is something which we are to announce, declare, promulgate.

Earlier in this same epistle the Apostle Paul had written:  
"For I determined not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

This is the whole purpose of the Lord's Supper. It is to attract attention to the Lord and to His death.

But why?

The answer is simple: It is because this is the very foundation of all that concerns man's relationship to God. Without this we have nothing. If any man does not understand this, then he understands nothing as he should concerning his relationship with God.

And it is so easy for us to forget what the death of Jesus Christ means that God has ordained that periodically we are to turn our thoughts back to the Lord and to His death by observing the Lord's Supper.

We are doing this tonight. We are to continue to do it until the Lord comes.

For just a few minutes tonight I want to direct your attention to one of the key passages in the NT dealing with the death of Christ: Romans 5. We will limit ourselves to verses 8-11, and not even include all that is in them. But, in looking at these, let us ask ourselves this: What do we have here that needs to be made known about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ? Or, in other words, what should we have in mind as we observe the Lord's Supper tonight?

I. THE DEATH OF CHRIST GIVES US PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US (v. 8).

He "died for us," but He "died" "while we were yet sinners."

However, note that this love did not begin with Christ's death. God has always loved us! Can we ever get over this, or forget it?

This is the best news that ever reached the ears of men. This is John 3:16.

And we need to realize this: If He could love me then, then He can love me now. And Romans 8 assures us that he does!

## II. THE DEATH OF CHRIST PROVIDES US WITH CERTAIN PRESENT POSSESSIONS (vv. 9, 10).

We do not have the time to mention them all tonight. Paul mentions two in these verses. In many respects they are the counterparts of each other: justification and reconciliation.

For the person who knows the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, these are not future possessions, but present!

Justification describes my standing before God.

Reconciliation describes my relationship to God--as well as my attitude.

By the death of Christ we are justified. We are declared righteous before God. I am cleared of all charges. He took my penalty upon Himself, and there is nothing left for me to do.

Reconciliation shows that my relationship to Him has been changed. I was an enemy; now I am a friend. And that change is described in v. 11.

So far we have had the past and the present, but what about the future? It is wonderful to have all of this, BUT CAN I LOSE IT? We can be thankful that the death of Christ provides for the future, too.

## III. THE DEATH OF CHRIST GUARANTEES THE COMPLETION OF MY SALVATION (vv. 9, 10).

This is so important that it is stated twice:

- 1) "We shall be saved from wrath through Him" (v. 9).
- 2) "We shall be saved by His life" (v. 10).

All of this brings us to another glorious fact which is related to the fact of His death. It is His resurrection. This is behind the statement, "Ye do show the Lord's death till He come." He could not "come" if He were still dead! He is alive. He was raised from the dead. He conquered death, and now lives to keep us for Himself and from the wrath to come! Cf. Heb. 7:25.

And this, too, explains the reason for what we have in v. 11--the joy and the assurance.

Concl: Tonight as we observe the Lord's Supper, these are some of the truths which we declare. We need them. It is only as we understand these truths that there can be any progress or any joy in the Lord.

But others need them, too! We should use the Lord's Supper as a means of witnessing to others--not just the act of eating the bread and drinking from the cup, but by telling others what it means that we do this.

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