

**“IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME”**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Intro:** What we have before us in these words, as far as we know is the oldest record of what the what the Lord said to His disciples on that night in the Upper Room when He instituted the Lord's Supper. It is older than the Gospel records. And is it especially important because Paul did not learn about it from the other apostles who were there on that occasion, but he learned it by direct revelation from the Lord.

In our Lord's words two things are obvious:

- 1) That there was a real possibility that the apostles would not always remember the Lord, but would have times when they would forget Him.
- 2) The other thought that comes from these words of our Lord is that He wants us to remember Him, that this serves to strengthen our fellowship with Him and opens our hearts to learn more and more of Him.

But the question is, how do we remember Him? Artists have tried to portray our Lord in paintings, but they have no authority for doing what they have done. In fact, we read this in 2 Cor. 5:14-16:

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

Seeking to make some visible representation of our Lord is actually a form that can lead to idolatry. How do we think about the Lord, and how do we learn to know Him better? The only way is through the Word. That is the only place to see Him and to learn about Him.

We have two ordinances which according to the Lord's own words we are to observe:

- 1) Baptism.
- 2) The Lord's Supper.

There are only two because only two are needed. The first, which is only observed once, pictures how we were saved, through our union, or

oneness, with the Lord in His death, burial, and resurrection. There is no such thing as being saved twice. Once we are saved, we are saved forever.

The Lord's Supper, while it too has to do with our salvation, yet pictures our lives as His people growing out of His sacrifice on the Cross. But we are to observe it over and over again because it pictures how we are to feed of Christ, and so how the Lord Jesus Christ manifests Himself as our very life, our spiritual life.

Alexander Maclaren has pointed out that in the Lord's Supper itself we have a testimony concerning the past, and present, and the future.

Concerning the past, the Lord's Supper is an abiding testimony to the fact that back in history the Lord Jesus Christ really lived and that He died for the salvation of sinners all over the world in all generations of time. And what we observe the Lord's Supper we are proclaiming by what we do that Jesus Christ, God's Son, lived on earth as a Man, and that He came to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). We are doing our part to make sure that that message does not die. The death of Christ is not a fairy tale, but it is a real event in history.

I have already touched briefly on the present message of the Lord Supper, but it is worth repeating again. The Lord's Supper is a picture of the Christian life. And the Lord spoke of this in John 6. Listen to these words beginning with verse 53 of that chapter:

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,  
Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye  
have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal  
life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in  
me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so  
he that eateth me, even he shall live by me (John 6:53-57).

As daily we feed upon the Word of God, and especially upon what the Word tells us about the Lord Jesus, we are drawing strength from the Lord in the form of the life that we have in Him. We are baptized only once, but the Lord's Supper is repeated over and over because we are to

be continually feeding upon Christ.

The last point that I want to make has both a historical and well as a future message that we give.

When we observe the Lord's Supper we are declaring that we believe in the resurrection of the Lord (that, too, is history), but we are also declaring that we are looking forward to the time when we shall see the Lord when He comes, and then we shall see Him face to face.

**Concl:** So you can see how very important it is that we observe the Lord's Supper. We must not forget Him, Who He is, what He has done for us in salvation, what He continues to do for us day by day, and what we are expecting as far as the future is concerned.

There is no better way to begin a new year than by remembering the Lord. And the new year will only be a happy new year if we continue to remember Him and daily feed upon Him as we find Him revealed to us and for us on the pages of Scripture. So keep on reading your Bible, looking for the Lord, remembering Him, and learning more and more about Him. That is where the joy of the Christian life is to be found.