

SB/JH46

Sermon Preached at Galeed Chapel, Brighton
by Mr J.K. Popham on Sunday Evening
4th October 1936

Text 1 Corinthians 11 verses 23,24 & 25

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament of My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

It was an infinite condescension of the Lord Jesus, whose habitation is Eternity, to choose and desire a Church for His rest, "This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it." (Psalm 132 verse 14). God sought out a land for Israel. He sought out a people for His rest for ever, and He has promised His presence in the services with the saints. "For where two or three of you are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18 verse 20).

He has left two ordinances to be observed for ever in the Church below. First baptism by immersion for believers, the commission of the Apostles is very distinct, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16 verse 15). "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28 verse 19). That is for believers, when a sinner is discipled, made a disciple by sovereign grace and power, he is a proper subject for the ordinance of believers baptism. After that, Jesus has given a second ordinance to be observed by the Church, while the world stands, and it is that which we have before us this evening.

The Apostle found the Corinthian Church in grievous disorder, and he reproved it for that disorder, and God revealed to him distinctly, what he was to deliver to that Church, and to all Churches to the end of time. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take eat, this is my body, (a symbol of my body) which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

What is before us this evening is this, that the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of remembrance, not a naked memory, but a gracious, a believing, a humble, a grateful adoring remembrance of what Christ did. "This do in remembrance of Me". Jesus Christ is complex in His person as Almighty God He sighed human breath. "Forasmuch then as the children being partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Hebrews 2 verses 14,15). And the communicants this evening are bidden to remember that.

We are to remember Jesus Christ, first to remember Him as the Substitute, God appointed and gave to His Church, and for her, that her sins, her guilt, her death, her punishment, should all meet in that Surety, and Substitute. And an end be made of all her sin, and her death swallowed up, her punishment exhausted, the law which she had broken be magnified and made honourable. That is what we are to remember, not just the mere elements, but what they signify. The breaking of the body, and the shedding of the blood of our Substitute. Dear children of God, what an object is this for faith, what a subject for us to have in remembrance. The Man Christ Jesus, true Almighty God, submitting Himself to a broken law, having that law unbroken, just as issued by God Himself in His heart. And from that arose all the work He undertook as a Substitute, which meant, that He must be punished, that the Father would take pleasure in bruising Him, in putting Him to grief, that it would be a just thing, a most just apt of the Father to call upon the sword of justice. Infinite justice to awake against the Man that is His fellow.

"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man that is My fellow, saith the Lord of Hosts: smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn Mine hand upon the little ones." (Zechariah 13 verse 7). Oh think of it, how it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, to put Him to grief. "This do in remembrance of Me." Remember the Substitutionary work, that Christ took for thee Oh sinner, and put thee out of the law, fulfilled thy duty under the law, and because the curse of the law, was over thee, and due to thee, He took that curse." "This do in remembrance of Me", sweet and solemn. Now I am going to name to you, what I did not bring before you this morning. Remember Him in a mourning spirit, "And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son." (Zechariah 12 verse 10). This mourning means a solemn realisation that Christ did suffer, for me and for you, those that belong to Him.

And that when faith gets a living apprehension of the sufferings of the Saviour, there will be a solemn sacred mourning for Him. Grief that you put Him to grief, that your sins broke His heart, that your sins brought the curse of the law upon Him. That the Holy One and the Just suffered so much for you, and when this is remembered, when the Holy Spirit brings it into the heart, there is a mourning. "And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son." (Zechariah 12 verse 10. Real sympathy in the heart felt for the suffering Saviour. "This do" when you take the symbol of My broken body, remember what I suffered and mourn for Me. When you take the wine, the symbol of My shed blood, remember what it cost Me to redeem you. "This do in remembrance of Me."

Remember Him in the next place believingly, the doubts, the fears, the misgivings, the painful depressing sense of sin done, and sin in us, will often so occupy the mind and thoughts, that there seems room for nothing else. But when the Holy Ghost comes, and takes of the things of Christ, and shows that love, that will, that power, to lay down His life, faith lays hold of it, and believingly remembers the Saviour. No cold remembrance, no memory as remembering a piece of history, but a living, warm, close and intimate remembrance of the dear Lord Jesus Christ brought into so sad and solemn a condition because of our sins. A Scotch Minister said, 'O communicants the gospel is a sinners gospel'. Remember that, this is it, He died that the sinner might live, He was cursed that the sinner might be blessed, He groaned that the sinner might rejoice, He laid down His life that the sinner might have eternal life. Faith will make that memory sweet, solemn and sanctifying. As memory sanctified by the Spirit, lays hold of this great truth, it will bring indeed a believing remembrance. Not a cold thought about Christ crucified, but as a sinner a dear remembrance through faith. "This do (lovingly) in remembrance of Me."

There is a very solemn word in the scriptures for unbelievers, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha". (1 Corinthians 16 verse 22). God give you to think of that, you who do not believe in Him, do not love Him, but a very gracious word is given to those who love the Lord, "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." (Ephesians 6 verses 23,24). Love runs to the cross and embraces it, love runs to the Person of Jesus, and in the little arms of faith embraces Him, embraces His death, believes it, believes it for forgiveness and salvation, for strength and comfort.


Remember Him, think of Him, think of the condescension of Christ, wishing His people to remember Him. He is happy, He rests in His love, but He will have His people to remember that love, and remember it in love. Remember Him lovingly. "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:" (Jeremiah 31 verse 3). "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 3 verse 5). "The Lord hath sworn and will not repent." (Psalm 110 verse 4). For though you try His patience, though your waywardness is offensive, though your unbelief does Him grievous dishonour, He will never leave you. "having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." (John 13 verse 1). "Is Ephraim My dear son ? is he a pleasant child ? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 31 verse 20), His love continues.

Dear friends think of this, the Lord Jesus Christ loved you when in "in thine own blood," (Ezekiel 16 verse 6). He loved you. When did He love you ? when you were guilty, He loved you and took your guilt, your death and your pollution, and every offensive thing to Himself and made an end of it all. "This do" when you take the symbol of His broken body, this evening. May the Holy Ghost bring to you and to me, what that brokenness meant. The laws thunder, the laws sanction, and the curse broke Him, His Father's desertion broke Him. "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me." (Psalm 22 verse 1). He, the holy and the just, the sovereign of the skies, endured this, He despised the shame of the cross, and endured all that was laid upon Him for you, and for me. "This do" when you take the bread, remember what broke Christ's heart. It will have a wonderful effect upon us. It will make us tender of His glory, and cause us to desire fervently to be kept from offending His divine majesty, and from walking loosely. To desire to live to His praise and glory.

"After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me." A New Testament and Covenant, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they break, although I was an husband to them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and

every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 31 verses 31-34). This is the Testament and it was sealed by His blood, "through the blood of the everlasting covenant." (Hebrews 13 verse 20). This is the blood of Christ, a covenant that no man can disannul, or make of non effect. Paul says, in the Galations, "Though it be but man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no man disannulleth it, or addeth thereto." (Galations 3 verse 15). Men's covenants or testaments sealed, are sacred, no man addeth thereto or taketh from it. If you make your will, and it is properly signed and witnessed no man can take from that or add to it. This blessed covenant is, "an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure:" (2 Samuel 23 verse 5), but remember what sealed it. That is what we have before us at this moment, what sealed that covenant? the blood of Christ. What does the blood of Christ mean? It means He poured out His soul unto death, that is what it means. He poured it out unto death, that your soul, as I hope and believe should not have the curse.

Jesus made a covenant with His Father, and that covenant was sealed with His precious blood. So when we take the cup this evening, the symbol of His shed blood, may the Holy Ghost help us to remember that, and what it cost the Saviour to seal the covenant. This is my blood He said, this is the cup of the New Testament in My blood. Remember this, no cold remembrance will suffice, but a believing, and loving remembrance of Him who suffered so much.

 And did the Holy and the Just,
The Sovereign of the skies,
Stoop down to wretchedness and dust,
The guilty worms might rise? (Gadsby's 95 verse 1)

Well He remembers Calvary,
Nor lets His saints forget. (Gadsby's 438 verse 2)

Dear brethren, you may this evening be feeling very unfit for the ordinance, as you look into your own hearts, as your conscience may bear witness, to your evils, backslidings, little grace, much worldliness, little love, much unbelief and hardness of heart You may say, we are not fit to go to the table.

For sinners, Lord, Thou cam'st to bleed; (Gadsby's 447 verse 4)

Plead that, let not conscience keep you away, plead the blood of Christ, and that He will give you grace to remember that.

The ordinance is for sinners, believing quickened sinners, remember this humbly. What a beautiful grace humility is, and if there is one place more than another, in which humility should live and be strong, surely it is at the Saviour's cross. The sufferings of the dear Saviour should, and as made known in power will always beget that humbleness of mind. "God resisteth the proud." (James 4 verse 6). So when we are at the table, this is a beautiful frame of mind for us to have by the Holy Spirit. A broken sense, a humbling sense, of our unworthiness, and then, of the infinite kindness and goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This do, take the bread, take this wine, in remembrance of Me. That Holy One of God actually died, remember in the next place that this death, this broken body, this shed blood, was all voluntary on the part of Christ. Hold fast the vicarious, voluntary nature of the death of Christ. A voluntary death could have had no virtue in it, but the voluntary nature of the death of Christ, has in it all that merit that was needed. "I have power to lay it down, (My life,) and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father." (John 10 verse 18).

One point I believe, of infinite importance is this, the voluntary nature of the death of Jesus Christ. We shall die an involuntary death, because we can live no longer. Some disease will take us away, I have said to you before now, every death certificate might have written across it, as the reason of death, sin. This procured our mortality, it procures disease, but Christ's death was different. There hung on that cursed tree, the Son of God, the Son of Man, one glorious Person, and there came to Him hanging there, righteousness and peace, and they kissed each other there. The glory of justice was there, and He satisfied it. The greatness of the claims of God on His people, was there, and He met them.

Tis no wild fancy of our brains,
No metaphor we speak;
The same dear Man in heaven now reigns
That suffered for our sake. (Gadsby's 23 verse 2)

My friends, it is in the scripture, the holy scripture testifies to us the death of Jesus Christ as a voluntary death. Remember that, remember when you take the symbols of His precious death, and blood shedding. The Apostle tells us that we are to do this, in remembrance of Christ. In the last place, and briefly, do this in hope. We wait for the hope of righteousness by faith, Hope of what ? Hope of eternal Life. Hope that ever long we shall be absent from the body and present with the Lord.

That the desire of our souls to be holy will be realised, that the loathing of sin, which sometimes we have in our hearts by the Holy Ghost will then, so to put it, be fully realised. We shall have nothing more of sin to trouble us. Oh I like that in my heart sometimes, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3 verse 2). The thought, the hope will make your heart leap with desire, "to be absent from the body, and present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5 verse 8). What shall I a wretched creature, a fallen creature, a God hating creature by the fall, what, shall I be made a friend of His Son ? And shall I, in my body as well as in my soul one day be like Him ? Faith says Yes, the Spirit bears witness to that, therefore is not this a wondrous word, and a sweet claim to our attention when at His table. This do, remember your dying friend.

Remember His infinite love, remember that nothing was too hard, harsh or terrible for Him to endure, for your Salvation. And thus remembering, sin put away by the Lord Jesus Christ. "For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come." That is, you make as it were a sermon, a testimony, and say to all about, I believe in the Lord Jesus, I believe in His voluntary death, I believe that He now lives for ever and ever. And what am I doing ? I do in humble, in hopeful, in affectionate, in believing memory of Him. May the Lord own us. ✓

The ordinance rightly viewed, will not be entered upon lightly, ourselves feeling as we should feel, and as we do, to be sinners, some of us the chief. It is not a light thing for us this evening, at the close of this service, to assemble at the table and profess to believe in Christ. To believe in His death, to believe that He died for us.

May we be encouraged by the Holy Spirit, to believe that the gospel is a sinner's gospel, and the ordinance is for sinners. That those coming should say, 'For me, the Saviour died for Me.'

Amen.