

Administering The Lord's Supper, John 12:32

It has been 21 months since we celebrated the Lord's Supper in the morning service, by passing the trays of bread and wine.

What a joy.

Let's celebrate with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in John 12:32, "*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.*"

What Jesus means by the words "lifted up," John then explains further in the next words. Verse 33 reads, "*He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.*"

So, it is Jesus being lifted up on the cross that Jesus wants us to understand is the means by which He will draw all people toward Himself.

Who is drawn? All people. Even the people who are disabled, are part of the all people who are drawn to Jesus.

The lifting up of Christ on the cross is the source of grace and power. The sufferings of Jesus Christ are the way that all sinners are brought near to Him.

Look to Christ crucified and risen again.

Do not look to yourself, as if you can do anything to improve your spiritual condition.

Do not look to the law, as if you had a chance of getting right with God by measuring yourself according to the law of God.

When you are in trouble in your sins and death is threatened, you are in the same situation that Jesus references here – the situation of the people of God who were being bitten with serpents and dying. The bronze serpent was lifted up on a pole, and whoever looked to the serpent would live.

The lesson is true for us today – if our souls turn an eye of faith toward Christ crucified, we will receive spiritual healing.

What does it mean to look to Christ by faith?

To establish in your thinking the reality of Jesus Christ having been lifted up on the cross in order to bear your iniquities in His body on the tree. Why is Jesus lifted up there? What did He do up there? He was crucified for one reason – to take the punishment for your sins. Jesus had such love for God and such compassion for you, that Jesus allowed them to nail Him to the cross and set it up until He was dead.

Is that what you are understanding, when you are being drawn toward Christ on the cross? Isn't your heart drawn toward Christ, who loved you like that?

How is Christ drawing sinners? By giving us the preaching of His Word and the gospel explained, and the subsequent gifts of repentance and faith. In this way, we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus to cleanse us. Also, Christ draws sinners to Himself by the actual communion with Christ in the Lord's Supper. By inviting us to eat of this bread and drink of this cup, Jesus pulls us toward Himself with His

love. His sufferings were done in love. His sufferings were done for us. Jesus suffered and died, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God. 2 Peter 3:18. We eat by faith. We drink by faith. We are drawn closer to Jesus.