

Lighthouse Bible Church

April 6th, 2014

Luke 22: 14 - 20 *Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10: 5 - 10*

'Preparing for the resurrection'

Today is the Sunday that we celebrate the Lord's table and I think it is fitting, in light of the upcoming resurrection Sunday celebration in 2 weeks, to look at the Lord's table from that perspective.

After all, that is one of the reasons why we are called to commemorate, to proclaim this celebration; because it brings our focus back on the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and how that impacts us individually, and why we should remember that incredible event together.

The resurrection is central and foundational to our Christian life and it is central to the reason why we celebrate the Lord's table. Because as 1st Corinthians 11: 25 – 26 says, **we are to remember His body given for us and we are to remember His blood shed for us** in the symbols of the bread and cup, and then we are **to proclaim His death; till He comes.**

So in those verses we have the Lord giving His body to be tortured as we see His blood being shed in the act of crucifixion and then He dies. And then we proclaim that death until He returns. What isn't said in there but is certainly understood is the resurrection of our Lord. It goes from His death to His return but neither of those would be possible without His resurrection.

And since we are going to be celebrating that great event in just two weeks, I think it is appropriate that we look at **that** aspect of our celebration today as we come to this table together. Because we can only approach this table because we have experienced His resurrection power over sin and death and hell and have the promise of eternal life.

We are called to remember His body given for us, which is symbolized in the bread we eat. **1st Timothy 3: 16** says **great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh.** Isn't that what **John 1: 1 – 2, 14** says. **In the beginning was the Word ... became flesh.**

Hebrews 2: 14 says **inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself (talking about Jesus) shared in the same, that through His death He might destroy him who had the power over death, that is the devil.**

This was in the plan of God all along. In **Hebrews 10: 5 - 7** the writer quotes the Old Testament Psalmist and says **sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.**

So we remember the body of Jesus given for us and it was a human body of flesh and blood that makes His resurrection all the more significant.

We are called to remember His blood shed for us which is symbolized in the cup of juice that we drink. Peter says in **1st Peter 1: 18 – 19** **that we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as a lamb without spot or blemish.** **Acts 20: 28** says that Jesus **purchased the church with His own blood.** **Romans 5: 9** says **we have been justified by His blood ... that saves us from the wrath to come.** **Ephesians 2: 13** says **we have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ.**

So we remember His shed blood which He poured out for us, and the final act of the Roman soldier was to pierce His side and blood and water flowed from Him **John 19: 34** says, but by that time He was already dead, which makes the resurrection all the more significant.

There was eyewitness testimony of His disciples to the death of our Lord. There was physical testimony to the death of our Lord. There was the testimony of His enemies that He had died; all that makes the resurrection all the more significant and all the more significant for us today.

Because His resurrection provides a hope of eternal life for us today which makes our celebration at this table all the more significant. **1st Peter 1: 3** says **He has begotten us to a living hope through the resurrection from the dead.**

Job had that hope in **Job 19: 25 – 26** for **I know that my Redeemer lives and He shall stand at last on the earth and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.** The Psalmist wrote about that hope in **Psalm 49: 15** when he said **God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave.** All throughout the O.T. they experienced the resurrection hope. In **Hebrews 11: 35** it says, about Old Testament people, **women received their dead raised to life again.**

Paul shared that hope when he was talking to the governor Felix. He said in **Acts 24: 15** **I have hope in God which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead both the just and unjust.** And we have that hope as well.

As a matter of fact, if Christ didn't raise from the grave, if there is no resurrection, then there is no return and we can't celebrate at the Lord's table because we are to proclaim His death until (what) He returns. Not only that but if there is no resurrection hope **1st Corinthians 15: 14 – 19** says **our preaching and our faith are empty, we are false witnesses and we are still in our sins and all who have died before us have perished and we have no hope.**

We come to this table with hope because it was through the shedding of His blood, through His death, burial and resurrection that all of our sins have been forgiven and cleansed and we have the promise and hope of eternal life.

That is a cause for **celebration**, that is a cause for **remembrance** and that is a cause for **the proclamation** of the good news that our sins have been forgiven because of the body and blood of our Lord, and that you can have your sins forgiven as well.

1st Peter 2: 24 says **who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree...in 3: 18** it says **for Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God...Jesus, talking about this very event said in Matthew 26: 28 for this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

Ephesians 1: 7 & Colossians 1: 14 says **in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins... Read Hebrews 9: 11 – 14, 28** That is why John said in **John 1: 29** **behold the Lamb of God who (what) takes away the sin of the world.** John would also write in **1st John 1: 7** **...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin** and in **Revelation 1: 5** **to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.**

That is why we are to examine ourselves before we come to this table so that we don't approach in an unworthy manner; and the reason is we would be guilty of the body and blood of our Lord.

Listen, when we approach this table we are cautioned in **1st Corinthians 11: 27** not to approach it in **an unworthy manner.**

You can approach this table in an unworthy manner by approaching it **ritualistically**, as just another part of the service and not from a heart of love and remembrance for why we are doing it. As one write said ‘you can go through the motions without going through any emotions.’

You can come to this table in an unworthy manner by thinking that this ceremony will somehow impart favor or grace or merit to you rather than thinking about the sacrifice it represents. It becomes an act of **idolatry** when the ritual itself is exalted more than **who** the ceremony represents. Earlier in **1st Corinthians 10: 14 – 16, 21** it says *Read*

You can come to this table in an unworthy manner when you come with **bitterness**, or **anger** or **hatred** or **jealousy** in your heart, especially if it is towards another believer.

You can come to this table in an unworthy manner when you come with **known sin** in your heart that you are not willing to confess or repent of. If you approach this table with less than a thankful heart and a desire to humbly remember what Christ has done for you, then you approach it in an unworthy manner. You are not approaching with perfection but with purity of heart by confession of sin.

And certainly, for someone who is not a born again believer to partake of this table would be blasphemous and done in a most unworthy manner. Paul goes on to say in 1st Corinthians 11: 27 that whoever approaches the table in an unworthy manner **is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

The very reason we come to this table and the very symbols of His body and blood, the bread and cup, we become guilty of if we don't approach this table in a worthy manner.

Someone used this example; if you trample our country's flag under your feet, you are not dishonoring a piece of cloth you are dishonoring the country that it represents. So to come to this table in an unworthy manner does not only dishonor the ceremony and celebration itself, it dishonors the One in whom we are celebrating.

Paul says we then become **guilty of the body and blood of Christ**. We dishonor the body and blood of Christ, which represents His sacrifice, His grace, His salvation and love for us, when we approach this table with indifference, ritualistically, sinfully, mockingly, uncaringly or whatever.

Stephen told the Jews in **Acts 7: 52** that because of their rejection of Christ, **they became the betrayers and murders** of Jesus. In **Hebrews 6: 6** it says of those who fall away **they crucify again for themselves the Son of God and put Him to an open shame**. The writer of Hebrews asks the question in **Hebrews 10: 29** of **how much worse punishment do you suppose will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and insulted the Spirit of grace**.

Those may be extremes and certainly apply to unbelievers, but I don't want to have any guilt as I approach this table and I don't want you to have any either, so that is why we want to be reminded often of the importance of such a celebration and time of remembrance.

Celebrate the Lord's table

Lighthouse Bible Church
April 6th, 2014
Luke 22: 14 – 20
‘Preparing for the Resurrection’

Introduction:

Remembering and Proclaiming:

1st Corinthians 11: 25 – 26

His Body:

1st Timothy 3: 16, John 1: 1 – 2, 14
Hebrews 2: 14, Hebrews 10: 5 – 7

His Blood:

1st Peter 1: 18 – 19, Acts 20: 28
Romans 5: 9, Ephesians 2: 13, John 19: 34

His Resurrection:

Job 19: 25 – 26, Psalm 49: 15
Hebrews 11: 35, Acts 24: 15
1st Corinthians 15: 14 – 19

His Atoning Sacrifice for our sins:

1st Peter 2: 24, 3, 8, Matthew 26: 28
Ephesians 1: 7, Colossians 1: 14
Hebrews 9: 11 – 14, 28, 1st John 1: 7
Revelation 1: 5

Approaching the Table to Remember:

1st Corinthians 11: 27, 10: 14 – 16, 21
Acts 7: 52, Hebrews 6: 6, Hebrews 10: 29

Lighthouse Bible Church
April 6th, 2014
Luke 22: 14 – 20
‘Preparing for the Resurrection’

Introduction:

Remembering and Proclaiming:

1st Corinthians 11: 25 – 26

His Body:

1st Timothy 3: 16, John 1: 1 – 2, 14
Hebrews 2: 14, Hebrews 10: 5 – 7

His Blood:

1st Peter 1: 18 – 19, Acts 20: 28
Romans 5: 9, Ephesians 2: 13, John 19: 34

His Resurrection:

Job 19: 25 – 26, Psalm 49: 15
Hebrews 11: 35, Acts 24: 15
1st Corinthians 15: 14 – 19

His Atoning Sacrifice for our sins:

1st Peter 2: 24, 3, 8, Matthew 26: 28
Ephesians 1: 7, Colossians 1: 14
Hebrews 9: 11 – 14, 28, 1st John 1: 7
Revelation 1: 5

Approaching the Table to Remember:

1st Corinthians 11: 27, 10: 14 – 16, 21
Acts 7: 52, Hebrews 6: 6, Hebrews 10: 29