

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:1-19

LD. 21.55

**Singing:** 288:1-4 – 203:1-5 – 81:1, 4 – 449:1-2

- A. Are upright Christians the troublemakers? (Esther 3:8; 1 Peter 4:4)
- B. Is our Christian Church's identity defined by 1 Peter 4:8?

### **The Communion of the Savior and the Saints**

I. It is a gift II. It is a stewardship

#### I. The Communion of the Savior with the Saints is a gracious gift

A. Peter began his letter with spelling the believer's gift (1:2-3)

1. Every aspect of the gift of salvation is grace (3-5)

2. Every aspect of the gift belongs all believers (LD 21.55)

B. Communion of the Savior and the saints defined

1. Communion with our Lord is the experiential truth of Romans 5:1-2

2. Yet communion with our Lord is far more than experiential moments  
a. as believers in Jesus we are partakers of Him (1 Cor. 3:21-23)

b. what are we partakers in?

- Romans 8:1
- Phil. 4:13
- Phil. 4:19
- Eph. 2:6
- Phil. 3:21

#### II. The Communion of saints with fellow saints is a stewardship

A. Communion of saints with saints is also not merely having *spiritual talks*

1. By all means have those: for God is listening and recording: Malachi 3:16

B. Communion of saints is to share or use **your gifts to benefit of others**

1. According to 1 Peter 4:10 every saint has received a gift (1 Cor. 12:11)

a. the gifts are manifold or varied vs. 10b:

b. all the gifts are important

c. you learn how you are gifted thru callings you get

2. Every saint is to minister his/her gift to one another as good stewards

a. a good steward realizes that all he/she manages is *not his/her*

● God gifted us to contribute to whole of the church (body)

b. good steward also realizes Master expects us to grow His talent

● Matt. 25:14-23

**Reflection:** Do we think Biblically about the *communion of saints*?

A. A true believer is no more an **individual** but a member of Christ's body

1. Read Hebrews 13:3 in light of Acts 9:4

2. Recall the early Christian's fellowship in Acts 2, 4

3. Meditate through some examples of the Christian's call for *one another*

a. 1 Thess. 5:14 – Gal 6:1-2 – Romans 15:14

B. A true believer has a calling to cultivate their gift for greater usefulness

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How sweet, how heavenly is the sight when those who love their Lord,

In one another's peace delight, and so fulfill His Word.

When each can feel the other's sigh, and also bear a part;

When sorrow flows from eye to eye, and joy from heart to heart.

When, free from envy, scorn, and pride, our wishes all above,

Each can the other's failings hide and show a kindred love.

When love in one delightful stream, through every member flow,

And fellowship and kind esteem in every action shows.

Love is the bond divine that binds, the happy souls above.

May we, as heirs of heaven, find our hearts so filled with love.

Joseph Swain, 1761-96