

August 19, 2012  
"In Remembrance"  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*Our minds and memories are wonderful things both in their strengths and weaknesses. We hear a few notes of a song, and we remember the entirety of it. Along with it, we might recall people and events from the past, either that; or we get a tune in our head which we cannot get out! Yet, we forget names, we forget where we put our keys, what someone asked us to do ... and sometimes we forget even the importance and love of Christ. It is the main or at least one of the main reasons we celebrate the Lord's Supper, that we might remember His death until He returns!*

I. We have need of reminders –

*Why would anyone "loved with an everlasting love" forget Christ?*

1. Because of our sinful hearts -

<sup>18</sup> **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells... (Rom 7:18 NKJ)**

I have a heart, which God knows, I wish I could wring from my body and hurl to an infinite distance; a soul which is a cage of unclean birds, a den of loathsome creatures, where dragons haunt and owls do congregate, where every evil beast of ill-omen dwells; a heart too vile to have a parallel—"deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." This is the reason why I am forgetful of Christ. C.H. Spurgeon

A. *We who are honest with ourselves know we often have to drag ourselves to prayer and Christian service, like Peter we may boast we would die for Christ, yet in Gethsemane, the flesh is weak and we fall asleep!*

B. *The Bible warns us in regard to our own hearts –*

<sup>9</sup> **"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9 NKJ)**

2. Because of our sweetest blessings –

<sup>0</sup> **"So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,**

<sup>11</sup> **"houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant-- when you have eaten and are full--**

<sup>12</sup> **"then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. (Deuteronomy 6:10-12 NKJ)**

A. *We should praise and thank God for the good things in our lives*

–

**Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**

B. *Yet, even the best of us can become enamored with / even blinded by great blessings, consider Hezekiah – Isaiah 38-39, Solomon or even David!*

3. Because of age and ailments –

**Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":<sup>2</sup> While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;<sup>3</sup> In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;<sup>4</sup> When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low;<sup>5</sup> Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.<sup>6</sup> Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.<sup>7</sup> Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 NKJ)**

II. The blessed reminders we are given –

1. The Bread –

**For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;<sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-24 NKJ)**

*Symbol of Christ's body broken for us, bread is a staple for us, it represents God's providing for our NEEDS in Christ –*

**And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John**

6:35 NKJ)

Give us this day our daily bread. (Matthew 6:11 NKJ)

2. *The Wine –*

<sup>25</sup> In the same manner *He* also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

*Symbol of Christ blood that was shed for us, wine is a luxury item to us representing that God not only provides for our needs but there are also eternal pleasures waiting for us in Heaven because of Christ's work on the cross –*

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11 NKJ)

3. *Yet ultimately these are both symbols of Christ's Death on our behalf –*

<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NKJ)

A. *They proclaim the Lord's death as the way of salvation –*  
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ)

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJ)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

B. *They show us God's great love for us –*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.<sup>17</sup>  
"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17 NKJ)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.<sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by

His life. (Romans 5:8-10 NKJ)

C. *They should humble us in regard to our sin against Him –*  
<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36 NKJ)

Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"<sup>38</sup>  
Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."<sup>39</sup> "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:37-39 NKJ)

III. *How should we receive these reminders?*

1. *With remembrance, both solemn and sweet –*  
do this in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:24)

2. *With repentance, serious and sincere –*  
<sup>19</sup> "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Rev 3:19 NKJ)

3. *With humility, as those who deserved to die –*  
<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (Jam 4:10 NKJ)

4. *With thanksgiving –*  
<sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (1Co 11:24 NKJ)

5. *With joy –*  
Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NKJ)

6. *As gifts, tokens of love, until Christ returns –*  
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26 NKJ)

7. *As proclamations of that same love –*  
you proclaim the Lord's death ... (1 Corinthians 11:26 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*