

In Christ Jesus, my fellow guests at the feast of the Lamb here on earth

Remember Your Salvation with Jesus' Special Supper

- I. It is received by faith
- II. It remembers our Savior
- III. It rejoices in our unity

INTRODUCTION

Confirmation, Graduation, Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, a big team victory. Did you ever stop to think about what we often use to celebrate and commemorate those and other milestones in our lives? Aren't each of those special occasions usually marked with among other things, a special meal? Family & friends gather. Perhaps the person being honored gets to choose the menu.

We have spent the last seven weeks following our Lord's suffering and death for our salvation - and so that we remember that it is special and so we do not forget it, Jesus gave us a special meal for our benefit. We do not often think of it as a meal, we more often call it a sacrament. But in our text for today, one of the key places in Scripture where God teaches us what the sacrament of Holy Communion is, Paul speaks to us about Jesus' Special Supper and he invites us to **Remember Your Salvation with Jesus' Special Supper**. There are three things which Paul tells us to help us remember our salvation as we receive Jesus' special supper 1) It is received by faith, 2) It remembers our Savior and 3) It rejoices in our unity. We read again

I. It is received by faith

“Take and eat this is my body, take and drink this is my blood” - Those are the words that we use every time we set apart and consecrate bread and wine for our celebration of the Lord's Supper and when we distribute those earthly elements. Bread and wine is what we can see, but Paul tells us that by faith we also receive the very body and blood of Jesus which was given into death for our sins. As we sing in one of our communion hymns "Human reason though it ponder, cannot fathom this great wonder". Our human minds cannot reasonably grasp how with the bread and wine, we also receive the sacramental elements of the body and blood of Christ.

Some people in an attempt to make the sacrament reasonable, try to explain this away, calling it a mere representation or only two elements. Paul tells us though that we receive all 4 things – bread, wine, Christ's body & Christ's blood and it is a matter of faith.

Even some of the greatest people of the world whose minds can handle the greatest of the world's problems, have admitted that this sacrament is a matter of taking God at his Word. We have an excellent example in Queen Elizabeth of England who wrote her own communion hymn verse to express that”

It was the Lord that said it
He took the bread and broke it
And what his Word does make it
That I believe and take it

What a beautiful expression of receiving the Lord's Supper in faith. We receive God's other gifts of forgiveness and salvation by faith. Paul reminds us that by the very same faith we also receive our Savior's body and blood to assure us of that forgiveness and strengthen our faith.

II. It remembers our Savior

It has been said that something which is very common and well-known can often become something which is taken for granted and forgotten.

So that this does not become the case with the Lord's Supper, Paul tells us Jesus' own words "*This do in remembrance of me*". When we come in faith before our Lord's altar and receive his body and blood – in, with and under the bread and wine, it is not just something we are doing because Jesus told us to do it, it is an opportunity for us to remember that our dear Savior innocently gave up his life to pay for our sins. That is why Jesus says and Paul repeats "*Do this in remembrance of me.*". Paul also goes on to add "*Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes*".

Let's not let our any celebration of the Lord's Supper become an occasion where we just go through the motions - let's remember why we are there.

III. It rejoices in our unity

Paul gives us one last point to consider about Jesus' special supper - a reminder that this supper is not to be used in just any way by anyone. The Lord's Supper is a very special reminder that all those who commune together before the Lord's altar share the same belief in Jesus as their Savior.

For that reason God's direction is that we not give the Lord's Supper to those who do not understand what it is all about. Notice what Paul says

Also a reminder to those who share that common faith - examine yourselves -

CONCLUSION

There is an amazing thing which happens with that interesting bird the pelican. A mother pelican will feed her young with her own blood to help them when they have been bitten by snakes. So also God, when we have been bitten by the snakebite of sin gives us the body and blood of his Son. We receive that by faith, we do it to remember Jesus and we rejoice in the unity which it gives us. That is Jesus' special supper for us. May we always remember our salvation when we receive it. AMEN.