

# THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE WAY TO REMEMBER

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 11: 25-26

NOTES FROM SERMON PREACHED BY REV. ARTHUR W. RICH

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAKELAND, FLORIDA

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When the Master was preparing to leave this world, he wanted to leave his followers with something that would remind them of him. The Lord's Supper is the most unforgettable way to remember. Because of the Lord's Supper, Christian believers in all ages have remembered their Lord.

We could take our text from the Gospels, yet we go to the Book of I Corinthians. Some might think that the Gospel accounts would indicate that the Lord's Supper was only for his disciples. As we turn to the book of Corinthians, we find that 25 years later, Paul is reminding the church of Christ's ordinance. The early church had practiced this Lord's Supper without any cessation.

Compare this with foot washing. In the upper room Jesus took a towel and basin and washed their feet. In doing this he was teaching them a lesson in humility. Nowhere did he tell them to continue this act as an ordinance. Yet there are those who feel today that we should observe foot washing as a church ordinance. Nowhere in the New Testament is there a single recorded instance of the early church washing feet as an ordinance. But here the early church is commanded to observe the Lord's Supper.

## **I. THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE WAY TO REMEMBER IS THE LORD'S SUPPER IS TO REMEMBER IT IS A MEMORIAL.**

In both the account recorded in Luke 22 and in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11, we read that Jesus said "This do in remembrance of me". We should not need to be reminded of what Christ has done for us.

A story is told that when Zacchaeus was an old man, every morning he would slip away quietly. Mrs. Zacchaeus wondered about these trips. One morning she followed him. He went to an old Sycamore tree, poured a bucket of water around roots, pulled up the weeds around it, and lovingly patted the trunk. Later she asked him about it. I go to that tree every morning to be reminded of the wonderful day that I met Christ. We too need to be reminded daily of what Christ has done for us.

Then we need to be reminded not only of what he means to us but what we mean to him. Many of us made vows to God that we could be counted on to serve him. Perhaps we need to take a lesson from Rome. Roman soldiers were required once a year to return to Rome and renew their vows to the Emperor. We need to come to the table to remember our vows to Christ. .

## **II. THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE WAY TO REMEMBER IS THE LORD'S SUPPER IS TO REMEMBER IT IS A PROCLAMATION.**

In defining the Lord's Supper, the scripture says, "*Ye do show forth his death.*" Every time we observe the Lord's Supper we make a proclamation.

### **1. We proclaim a message on salvation.**

Our salvation comes through the death of Christ. Jesus did not leave us a symbolic ordinance to show forth, his incarnation, his transfiguration or his ascension. Yet he wants us to proclaim his death. Why? Because our salvation comes as a result of his death. Paul says: "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Christ." (Gal. 6:14) If you do not know Christ as your Saviour it does not do you any good to observe the Lord's Supper.

A lady was seriously ill. She called her pastor and asked him to come to the Hospital and let her take the Lord's Supper there. When he had gone, she turned to the woman in the next bed and said: "I thought it would have done me good, but it didn't help me." The other woman was a wonderful Christian. Said she: "My dear friend, you didn't need it, you needed HIM, the Christ, the only one who can save.

## **2. We proclaim a message on service.**

The cross is a principle of life. Jesus said: “Whosoever would save his life will lose it.”(Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, Luke 17:33) You find your life by giving it away. You have no right to claim to be a Christian unless there has been a radical reorientation of your life, so that self is not at the center. The will of God must take the place of our own wills.

Let’s proclaim in the Lord’s Supper that we are saved, but also that we are saved to serve.

## **III. THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE WAY TO REMEMBER IS THE LORD’S SUPPER IS TO REMEMBER IT IS A PROPHECY.**

Look again at our text. It says: “*Ye do show forth the Lord’s death till he comes.*”

The master has promised to come again. Every time we observe the Lord’s Supper we remind ourselves of the prophecy of his return. Turn in your bible to 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4: verses 6-8. Paul states: *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

I like Moffatt’s translation. It reads, “*Not to me only but to all who have loved and longed for his appearance.*”

When Christ appears again, we will not need this the Lord’s Supper table anymore. Today, we have his picture. One day our friend and Savior will appear and we won’t need the picture anymore. But until he comes, we have this unforgettable way to remember him.