

'In remembrance of Me'

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In a few days many believers around the world will be partaking of some symbols that were outlined in the Bible by our Savior, Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul talked about those symbols in his first letter to the Corinthians.

Paul described what the Lord Jesus had done on the night He was betrayed (1 Corinthians 11:23). Paul mentioned that Christ broke bread and said: "Take and eat. This is My body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me" (verse 24).

The bread. Broken bread. Eaten in remembrance of Him.

The believers in the apostolic age learned much about the suffering of the Christ through their experiences on this earth.

When Paul was defending himself to members of an unappreciative congregation, he mentioned some of the things he endured for them (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

If Paul was doing those things for glory, for acceptance, for pity or for such other human reasons, it was a waste of time. That's what he wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:3: "What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned alive? I would gain nothing, unless I loved others" (Contemporary English Version).

Peter explained the difference between suffering for our sins and suffering as a believer (1 Peter 4:15-16). When we suffer for our sins, we are not imitating Christ. When we suffer in innocence, we have the opportunity to reflect our Savior (1 Peter 2:19-24; 1 Peter 3:16; 1 Peter 4:13-14).

Back to 1 Corinthians 11. After Paul mentioned the broken bread, he told how Christ proceeded to drink from a cup and said: "This cup is the new testament in My blood. Do this in remembrance of Me" (verse 25).

The wine. Only a little wine. Sipped in remembrance of Him.

When Paul wrote his letters about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he was doing more than just passing along inspirational slogans. In 1 Corinthians 15:31 he wrote: "I die daily."

Why did he write those words? The context of the phrase was discussing his battles with "beasts at Ephesus" (verse 32). Whether Paul was facing literal animals or dealing with an oppressive civil government, he kept his eyes on the death and resurrection of His Savior.

If we reflect back upon our baptism, we will remember that we were "baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3). We will remember that we were "buried with Him by baptism into death" (verse 4).

But we will also remember His resurrection. Paul wrote:

■ "Just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (verse 4).

■ "If we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection" (verse 5).

We have the opportunity to partake of powerful symbols as we "show the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

The Lord's death means something to us because the Father raised Him from the dead.

Focusing on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is about our future in the Kingdom of God.

Focusing on the death and resurrection of the Messiah is about our opportunity to be a vessel of honor on this earth today.

What will you be thinking about when you partake of the broken bread and the wine?

He said: "Do this in remembrance of Me."