

Series: Sermons on the Lord's Table
Title: The Bread, the Wine, the Taking and Eating
Text: 1 Corinthians 11: 24-26
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1 Corinthians 11: 24: And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25: After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. 26: For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

I. THE BREAD—V24: this is my body, which is broken for you:

The broken bread represents Christ's body—in humanity—(Heb 2) which was broken for his people. Christ is the true Bread, the true Manna, which was typified in the manna in the wilderness. His body broken for our iniquities is the Bread of Life for sinners starved of all righteous because of our sin.

When we read in **Isaiah 53: 5:...he was bruised for our iniquities...**the word “bruised” says very much concerning Christ our Bread whose body was broken for us. Bruised means “to beat” as bread corn is ground and beaten by a pestle in a mortar. Concerning the manna in the wilderness we read....

Numbers 11: 8 *And* the people went about, and gathered *it*, and ground *it* in mills, or beat *it* in a mortar, and baked *it* in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

Christ the true Bread from heaven was so made sin for his people, he so bore the sins of many, that with the iniquities of his people laid on him, God justly bruised Christ for our iniquities. Our Substitute was broken, beaten, pounded, ground to powder like as a corn of wheat is bruised so that he might put away our sins and we might feed and feast freely upon the Bread of life.

Application: Believer, try to put everything out of your thoughts and hear Christ say to you personally, this broken piece of bread represents “my body, which is broken for you.”

- His Body Which Knew No Sin
- His Body in which righteousness was established and the law fulfilled
- His body which bore our sins
- His Body which he sacrificed for us
- Remember what it cost him to say to you, ‘I will be thou clean.’
- Remember what he suffered in his body that you might be justified freely.

II. THE WINE—V25: After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me.

The wine represents Christ shedding his own blood by which he put away the sin of everyone for whom he died.

Leviticus 17: For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 1:...3: when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;...9: 2: And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Christ Jesus shed his own blood--his life for the life of his people--and put away our sin by the sacrifice of himself—by shedding his own blood.

Ephesians 1: 7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Hebrews 9: 14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Salvation is not in your works—it is in Christ’s blood. Justification is not by your good deeds—in his finished work.

Romans 5: 9:...being now justified by his blood,...

Romans 3: 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27: Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

III. THE TAKING AND EATING—24: And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat.

“Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it,” he held it out to his disciples and said, “Take, eat!” When they took it, and ate it the bread became theirs and became one with them. The taking and eating of these elements symbolizes our receiving—taking—Christ through faith and living upon him. When Christ speaks to the heart made new and says, “Take, eat”—his child takes into himself all that Christ is and all that Christ freely gives.

All spiritual blessings are of God who blessed us with all spiritual blessing in Christ when he chose us in him. We receive those blessings when we take and eat of him through faith.

John 6: 53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

All is a gift. We do not make our own blessings, earn the blessings or deserve the blessings. He even gives life and the gift of faith before we can receive him. We simply receive the gift of blessing he gives to us freely by his grace by believing on him. All is his gift.

Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Someone might say, “I don’t feel worthy because of my sin.” Was their sin in those believers at the Lord’s table that night? Yes. Was any worthiness in them to take? No. Their worthiness to take was Christ, who put away their sin and commanded them, “Take, eat.”

So it is that no sinner can receive Christ by faith who thinks he has made himself worthy to receive Christ.

Luke 5: 32: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Before any man takes Christ in faith, the Spirit of God makes us **examine ourselves** and **makes us to discern the Lord’s body**.

- **The Spirit convinces us of sin**—we are absolutely unworthy in ourselves of the least of God’s mercies?
- **The Spirit convinces of righteousness**—that Christ is all our righteousness
- **The Spirit convinces us of judgment**—that our worthiness—our complete and full justification and acceptance with God—is through the broken body of Christ Jesus who died in our room and stead?

The Spirit makes us to hunger and thirst after Christ our Bread, our Righteousness. So by his grace, we obey his command and take and eat—we believe—because freely we have received—of his fullness.

Likewise, that is how believers observe to the Lord’s Table—let a man examine himself, discern the Lord’s body. Be sure to get this, brethren. We examine ourselves and truly discern the Lord’s body when we find all worthiness in Christ, not in ourselves. He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, drinking damnation to himself, is not he that partakes of the bread and wine being a sinner, but he that partakes not owing Christ to be our All—that is what it is not to discern the Lord’s body. Nothing in Peter made Peter worthy to take of that bread—it was Christ who gave it—who was all his worthiness. So it is with the believer....The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. Sinner, hear the Lord, I pray he make you obey him, Believe on Christ--“Take”—freely receive him by faith.

A few more things we see in the eating of this bread—it symbolizes our living upon Christ by faith.

John 6: 57: As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

We live by him daily as you live by the bread on your tables. The manna in the wilderness that was not eaten, bred worms, and stank.

We chew when we eat. We take this doctrine of Christ and we chew on it. We savor it. We delight in it because it is sweet—sweeter than the manna in the wilderness. God chose me freely in Christ by his grace—the more I see my sin the sweeter that bread becomes to me. Christ loved me so much that he laid down his life for me, I am seated with him in glory, never to be separated from him—that is my everlasting meat in this land of famine. God the Holy Spirit abides in me, leads me, guides me into all truth, keeps me and shall raise me at last to be with Christ forever—what a delight to chew over and over.

Food nourishes our bodies when it becomes one with us. So the believer’s inward man is nourished and strengthened by Christ our Bread who abides inwardly and in whom we abide.

John 6: 56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Isaiah 55: 2: Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Lastly, when we gather at someone's table it means friendship. By faith we have fellowship in Christ.

1 John 1:3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

He said, "because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

John 17: 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

My favorite phrase in the whole English language:

Accepted in the Beloved!

- Believer, in the bread—remember his body broken for you
- In the wine—remember his blood shed for the remission of our sins
- In the taking and eating—remember "the just shall live by faith."

Luke 12: 37: Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Amen!