

Communion – Proclamation of Our Abiding Union

John 6:48-58

... “I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” ⁵² Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides in Me, and I in him.** ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

From this passage we understand that Jesus’ body and blood were given to us at Calvary. His body was broken to the point of death and His blood shed on the cross so that we, who believe in Him and by faith partake of Him, may have eternal life.

We focus on the statement that as partakers of the life of Christ we abide in Him and He is us.

- This speaks of an ongoing and continual union – so in coming to the Lord’s Table we are not just momentarily observing a ritual, but rather we are celebrating and reminding ourselves of the reality of the **continuing union** we experience in Christ.

John 12:24

... “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

1 Peter 1:23

... “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

Bread is made from wheat. Christ is the “Grain” or “Seed” which was crucified and buried so that He could rise up and be multiplied as the Seed of the bread of life that is planted in us so that we may be partakers of His eternal life.

John 3:14-17

... “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵ so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be **saved** through Him.”

Num 21:9

... “And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.”

These verses clearly show that through Jesus crucifixion we are saved and that salvation includes both **atonement for sin and healing for our bodies.**

The word “**saved**” in Jn 3:17 is from the root word *sodzo* (σώζω) the meaning of which includes: rescue from sin, healing and deliverance. (*Whoever believes in the Lord Jesus shall be saved* Acts 16:31)

1 Cor 11:23-26

... “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is broken for you; do this **in remembrance of Me.**” In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim** the Lord’s death until He comes.”

We focus on the reiteration Jesus makes when He says “Do this in remembrance of Me”. And also that He says we “proclaim” His death until He comes again.

Putting it all together:

“**Remember Me**” – Jesus is not saying that our regular communion remembrance is to focus on His agony and death in a way that would instill guilt in our souls in an atmosphere of defeat.

Our observance of the Lord’s Table is not to be a morbid, funeral like commemorative service and ritual – it is to be a “**proclamation**” – a joyful announcement of the Good News that Jesus came to bring us victory over sin and death, healing to our bodies and deliverance from all oppression.

As we partake of the bread of life and blood that saves we joyfully announce that we have:

- The incorruptible and eternal Seed living in us
- That we are continually partaking of the bread of life as we live in continual union with Him
- That we have been saved – our sins are forgiven and healing and deliverance is ours

Pray giving thanks for the emblems: Father as we partake of these emblems we joyfully thank you for:

- The triumph of the cross
- The power of its provision, and
- The joy of our hope

So let us continually rejoice and sing songs of praise in joyful celebration of our abiding union with our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. In Him we live and move and have our being!