

In our Message Churches, we take communion ever so often, and we should, but it can become just a routine we go through. Perhaps we do it just because the rest of the people in our church do so. Many, I am sure, do so because the Prophet said we should. It is possible to think of it as a chore that we must do, and so we endure it, and get it over with until the next time. But in this sermon, I want to show that taking Communion is one of the most important types in the Bible. This is true because it types our being **“DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN.”** (Rom. 6:11)

When the revelation of what Communion is about comes and we realize that as we partake of its emblems, we are testifying that we **KNOW WE ARE FREE FROM SIN**, then we are in a true spiritual sense doing it. **“In true remembrance of Him.”** (Lk.22:19) To truly remember Him and His sacrifice as we take Communion causes the scripture in Mat.26:28 to come alive to us. **“For this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the REMIS-SIONS OF SINS.”**

When we take of the emblems (The Bread and The Wine) we are suppose to be testifying, by an outward act, that we understand I John 3:9, **“Whosoever is born of God DOETH NOT COMMIT SIN, for HIS SEED (God’s Seed) remaineth in him and HE CAN-NOT SIN, because he is born of God.”** We are testifying that we believe Rom. 6:6-7, which says, **“Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him, that THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, that hence forth we should not serve sin.”** Verse 7,

COMMUNION AND WATER BAPTISM

“God’s Types of Being Dead to Sins”

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“FOR HE THAT IS DEAD IS FREED FROM SIN.”

To take Communion with the full revelation of its spiritual meaning is to testify that we believe, and know, that we are in the group that the scriptures in Rom. 4:7-8 refer to. **“Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute (charge) sin.”**

To take Communion with the full revelation of its meaning in our hearts is to stand with the Apostle Paul and say, **“There is therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus (Born Again) who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”** (Rom. 8:1) We should be testifying to our REDEEMER that we truly believe we have been redeemed. That is to say, “Saved from our sins.” We are testifying to the enemy that we know he no longer has anything with which to condemn us, our sins are gone!

We are not saying that we have no more sin in our flesh man. We, as Paul, see a law in our members, warring against the law of our mind, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members! (Rom. 7:23) We are saying that our Lovely Lord Jesus has made a plan, and when we trust in it He declares us to be, **“Holy and without blame**

before Him in Love.” (Eph. 1:4) He declared this while knowing we will never be perfect in our flesh man. His plan then is the Cross and the Blood Sacrifice that was made there when **“HE OFFERED UP HIMSELF”** in our place. (Heb. 7:27) We are guilty but declared innocent by God.

When we take Communion, we declare that we understand that **“By His own Blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained ETERNAL REDEMPTION FOR US.”** (Heb. 9:12) If we refuse Communion, or fail to take it, then our testimony concerning these powerful truths is marred. On the other hand, if we do take Communion without understanding these truths, it can only be a ritual without meaning to us, and could even be harmful!

Paul taught that it is possible to take Communion UNWORTHILY. One way to be unworthy is to have unconfessed sin in our lives. Another way to be unworthy, is to suppose that you are worthy in your flesh man. I John 1:8, **“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”** Verse 9 **“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** We are all guilty of sin, and the only way to be out from under its bondage is BY

FAITH IN HIS PLAN. Therefore, to go to the Communion Table supposing we have pleased Him in our flesh man is to take it unworthily.

To go to the Table trusting in our ability to keep the Law well enough, so as to become worthy to take Communion, is to be **“Guilty of the Body and the Blood of the Lord.”** (I Cor. 11:27) How so? Because we can never keep the whole Law, without breaking any part of it, and to break one part is to be as guilty as if we had broken the whole Law. (See James 2:10) And so, we come to take Communion dropping our sins into the Blood of God one moment at a time as we have need to do so. We come believing that His Blood has made us worthy as we constantly repent.

Paul declared in I Cor. 11:29-30, **“For He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s Body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (are dead).”** Failure to discern, or understand fully, why the Lord Jesus gave his Body on the Cross, is to be **“Guilty of the Body and the Blood of the Lord.”** In other words, it is failure to believe that His Sacrifice has truly left us SINLESS in His Eyes. To take communion while still under condemnation because of some sin, or sins, that we have committed, is failure to believe God’s Word in II Cor. 5:21, **“For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.”**

To take Communion worthily is to believe with the Apostle Paul that we have been **“Crucified with Christ, nevertheless we live, yet not we, but Christ liveth in us, and the life that we now live in the flesh we live by the Faith of**

the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.” (Gal. 2:20)

To take Communion is to testify that we are standing on the revelation that we were IN CHRIST when He was crucified, and that we died with Him, and being DEAD we are freed from sin. (Rom. 6-7) Perhaps a parable will help us to see this powerful truth in the way that our Lord wants us to see it.

A certain man had committed a terrible crime, and having been arrested and placed in jail, he was awaiting trial. But, while his attorney gained more time to prepare his case by having his trial postponed, the man grew sick and died. Following the usual procedure, he was taken to the funeral home, embalmed and laid out in a casket. Upon hearing of the man’s death the prosecuting attorney gathered up his evidence and law books and went to the funeral home. Standing before the casket, he proceeded to read the laws the dead man had broken and quoted the penalties he had come to enforce.

But, was not this prosecutor very much out of place in that he was confronting a DEAD MAN with his crime? The man in the casket had gone beyond the prosecutor’s jurisdiction. The law had, by reason of his death, lost its hold on him. Now, Bride of Christ, in like manner because we were IN CHRIST, and died with Him at Calvary, when the Accuser of the brethren comes to read the laws to us that we have broken (and we may well be guilty), we are to understand that we have passed beyond the jurisdiction of this Accuser by reason of our death. Rom. 6:11, **“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be DEAD indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

The circumstances of our daily lives will many times show that we

are indeed guilty of certain sins, but our moment by moment repentance, as we have need to repent, brings to pass Rom 8:33-34 for us. **“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s Elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the Right Hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”**

And so, we say again, on the authority of the Word, that Communion is all about being DEAD and FREED from all sin. It is our symbolic act by which we are saying to our Father, and to the Enemy, “I believe I am DEAD TO SIN, I believe I AM FREED FROM SIN. It is something our God has already done for us, and all He asks is that we believe it. The Devil knows its true, and he trembles as he sees the Bride coming into this revelation.

We do not argue with Satan, stating that we have no sin; we confess our sins, then testify that they have been dropped into that great tub of bleach and destroyed. We love the Prophet’s story that compared the sin-destroying Blood of Jesus with a drop of ink in a tub full of Clorox Bleach. The ink is forever gone. The most intelligent scientist cannot discover it again. The Devil and his whole host of demons cannot bring again our sins, once by Faith we drop them into the Blood of our Redeemer. Satan fears the Christian who has the revelation of what Calvary and the Cross means. When we come to the Communion Table, we are declaring that we know what it means. Therefore, we say that to take Communion unworthily is failing to understand that we have been MADE RIGHTEOUS.

Not that we are righteous in our flesh, not that the flesh has been perfected, but that we understand the Plan of God in that He allowed

us to be born in sin, and unable to keep His Holy Law Standard perfectly, so that He could show forth His powerful Love through becoming our Redeemer. This was HIS PLAN, Dear Bride, and not something man had a part in. And since it was formed in the Mind of God and carried out by God, Himself, how do we suppose it can ever fail? How do we suppose the Devil can find a loop hole in God's Plan, and how dare we allow him to place us under condemnation because of our failures! God's declared Word is forever true!

WATER BAPTISM

Along with Communion, Water Baptism is another great type of all that we have said above. Rom. 6:3 asks the question, "**Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized unto His Death?**" Verse 4 states, "**Therefore, we are BURIED with Him by baptism into DEATH, that like 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 5, "**For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.**"

Water Baptism symbolizes our death to sin. When we are placed under the water, we are to understand that this is showing forth, in type, our death. By being placed under the water, we are symbolizing being put in a grave, and we are to understand our Gracious God will not charge sin against a man who is, "DEAD IN CHRIST."

When the full revelation of what Water Baptism is about comes, we will realize that from the moment we come up out of the water SIN WILL NEVER BE CHARGED AGAINST US. Rom. 4:7-8, "**Saying, Blessed are those whose iniquities**

are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

Of course, we are to understand that again this is a thing of Faith. In ages past, many good people have been baptized without this revelation having come. It has been lost sight of in most modern churches. But, now we have come down to the Bride's time to leave in a Rapture and God has promised to restore all that the different denominations have lost. This restoration has to do with sending the Faith that was once "Delivered unto the Saints." The truth about Water Baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is a part of this restoration. To be buried in type, in a watery grave, and coming up freed from all sin forever, is no small revelation! It is God's Love expressed in all its power and glory!

Before someone misunderstands, we are not teaching that the water, of itself, does away with our sins. We do not baptize in water for regeneration or conversion. To be put under the water does not save us. We must have an experience with the Lord wherein our sin load is lifted, then we are candidate for Water Baptism. Another great truth needs to be taught concerning our baptism in water. After Justification (sins forgiven) and after Sanctification (a life laid on the altar) we are in line to receive the Holy Ghost.

In Acts 2:38, Peter gives the correct formula for receiving the Holy Ghost. "**Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.**" The first step toward receiving the Holy Ghost is to truly repent. Then when you know your sins are gone, you must be baptized in that Name that is

above every name, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is then, at the time of your Water Baptism, when you have complied with God's formula, that the scripture says, "**You shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.**"

If we would teach the new converts this scriptural formula, then the strain of seeking and searching for the Holy Ghost would be done away, and when they come up out of the water, the Holy Ghost would fall on them and fill them, even as God said. We receive the Holy Ghost by faith, in the same way we receive anything else from God.

John the Baptist rebuked those who came for baptism before they had repented and had a change of attitude toward sin. Water Baptism is an outward sign that God has done and inward work in the heart.

Many have been delayed, or even missed receiving the Holy Ghost Baptism, because they are waiting to become more acceptable to the Lord in their flesh life. This is a grave error. If we should live a hundred years in our flesh bodies, there would still be "**No good thing in it.**" (Rom. 7:18) How do we suppose we can become good enough to receive this blessing of God, when in all truth we can't live the perfect life AFTER we receive the Holy Ghost?

No Friends, we do not EARN God's Gifts of Grace, for then they would no more be Grace, but God would OWE us something, and if He owed us something, Grace would be done away with! (Rom. 4:4-5) The Holy Ghost is given by a merciful Lord to HELP US BECOME MORE LIKE HIM IN OUR DAILY WALK. But the teaching of the enemy turns this around backwards, and says we must become more like Jesus BEFORE He will give the Holy Ghost.

And while we are on this subject, I feel the Holy Ghost crying

out against another terribly wrong doctrine that has come into our precious Message. God does not wait until we have believed His End-Time Message and received the revelation that Brother William Branham was the scriptural End-Time Prophet, BEFORE he will send the Holy Ghost. Just the opposite is true. God sends His Spirit to REVEAL these powerful truths. Just an intellectual knowledge of them is all we have without the Holy Ghost to REVEAL them to us.

Some are teaching that we are not Born-Again until AFTER we receive the End-Time Message. That is to say, we do not receive the Holy Ghost until AFTER we receive the revelation of the Message. They say that the Lord waits until we have it all figured out for ourselves, then He will give us the Holy Ghost, which is the New Birth. Precious Bride, this is not the scripture! May I just remind you of some scripture that destroys this teaching?

John 16:13, "Howbeit, when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth...." Then how do you teachers say that God waits until we believe all these things BEFORE He sends this Spirit of Truth, which is the Holy Ghost, which is the New Birth? Again, **John 14:6** says, **"I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE."** Yet, some say that we must come into this truth BEFORE we have His Life, then He will send it. It is most amazing how the enemy can cloud the minds of us all, and it takes the Holy Ghost to straighten us out.

In **1 Tim. 2:4**, the Bible says, **"Who will have all men to be SAVED (given the Holy Ghost) and (THEN) to come into the knowledge of the truth."** We do not see the truth and then get saved, but we get saved and then see the truth! Thank God for a merciful Lord who has not left us on our own until we can find out these powerful truths, but He has given us the Holy Ghost in order to show them to us.

This writer has been told that he did not have the New Birth until after I came to the Message and believed it. They said I could not receive the Holy Ghost (the Word) that is needed today, back in Pentecost. I grant you that many who supposed they received it in Pentecost did not. They only received an anointing on their outer man. But, if we try to say that none received Him, the Word, back there we miss the truth.

This writer received Him, the Word, while in Pentecost, then two years later this same Holy Ghost led me to God's End-Time Message. I did not need a different kind of Holy Ghost to teach me the Message. There is only one Holy Ghost, and He does all the teaching and revealing. When you receive Him, no matter when it was, He will lead you into all truth. We may not have all the truth at this time, but if we have Him we are certain to arrive at that place. That is to say, we will have all we need to go in the Rapture.

I would ask the teachers of this wrong doctrine to remember that without the Holy Ghost, which is the New Birth, that we are **"Dead**

in trespasses and sins" until we have been quickened. (Eph. 2:1) Our spiritual eyes are blind, even so blind that we cannot come to God unless He draws us. (John 6:44) Yet you say, "When we see the Message we are then Born-Again." Then may I ask a question? What about the people who believe the Message, but show no signs in their life of having separated from the world and its programs? It should be evident that their belief of the Message did not, of itself, change their hearts. But you give this belief as proof of the New Birth.

My Friends, it is not belief of the Message that is proof of the New Birth, but rather a Godly life. It is walking in obedience to all the Word we know. It is to repent when we get wrong, and keep on keeping on. It is to love and trust the Lord Jesus, no matter what He sees fit to put us through. Many Message Believers are not yet doing this. May God help up to receive the genuine Holy Ghost so that we may have, not just an intellectual knowledge of the Message, but a revelation of it.

On the Day-of Pentecost, when Peter was asked by the 3000, "What shall we do to be saved?" He did not say, "Wait until we teach you all the things Jesus taught, and if you receive it you shall receive the Holy Ghost!" But he simply said, **"Repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.....and you shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost."** That is still the formula for today. Amen!

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