

"This Do In Remembrance Of Me"

For as long as I can remember, I have been worshipping in churches with this phrase imprinted on the communion table. I would study that phrase as a small boy when I was *bored* with the sermon. I thought about it as a teenager when it began to have serious meaning to me. When I began preaching, I could no longer see it from the pulpit, but I have *diligently* tried to focus on that command while I participated in the Lord's Supper -- the memorial of Christ's death . . . for **me**. How solemn a thought that someone else died because of my wrongs! How much *more serious* when I realize it was not just someone, but God's beloved Son! **"This do in remembrance of Me."**

Luke 22:19

Where is this phrase found? Where is this command found? Who said "remember Me"? This phrase, this command is found only once in the Gospel records of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It is the beloved physician Luke who records the words: "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'"

Of course, Jesus Christ spoke these words as He instituted His memorial supper. I have never thought He was asking too much of me to remember Him on a weekly basis. He sacrificed His physical body, His life, for me. I can focus on Him for a few minutes every week! Without His death for me, I would have no life.

Still, I found it a bit shocking to realize that this command is not found in every Gospel account. Having seen it on the communion table all of my life, I had assumed it was. Matthew, Mark and Luke record the institution of the memorial feast. Each account has its own details, and its own flavor. John busies himself with much detail and information that is not found in the other three Gospels, and so omits the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11

The apostle Paul received from the Lord Jesus the following words: "*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**. 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**. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come*" (vv. 24-26). Paul was not a disciple of Jesus when this memorial feast was instituted. Thus, Jesus gave Paul these words after Paul became a believer and an apostle.

This account is most often read each Sunday as the men are gathered to officiate over this memorial feast. If we are not careful, then we may take for granted these solemn words. May it never be!

What Should We Remember?

Jesus commanded us to "*do this in remembrance*" of Him. He does not *specify* what remembrances are to be recalled, but by studying the four accounts in Matthew, Mark, Luke and 1 Corinthians, there are *many things* to remember. Study them for yourself and see.

Perhaps most of all, we should **remember** that Jesus died for my sin. What an awful price to pay for sin. Sin is an awful thing. Jesus died for **my** sin while being *perfectly sinless* Himself! What a bitter pill to swallow. Suffering because of someone else's fault. But Jesus never complained. He died willingly because God so loved the world.

We should **remember** "*the cup*" -- His shed blood, *symbolical* of His life given. He didn't just make a donation at the Red Cross! He gave His life in my stead! The cup reminds me of that. "*Without shedding of blood there is no remission*" (Heb. 9:22). "*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends*" (Jn. 15:13). I will *never* forget. I will **remember** Jesus, my Lord, my Friend.