

Series: Words of Counsel and Correction

LET A MAN EXAMIN HIMSELF

1 CORINTHIANS 11

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:28

1 Corinthians 11:28

²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

Introduction:

The Lord left His church 2 ordinances.

Both of these ordinances picture what the Lord has done to provide the free gift of salvation.

Those ordinances are baptism – which pictures the death, burial, and the resurrection of our Savior.

The other is the Lord's Supper again picturing the broken body and the shed blood of our Savior.

The Lord instructed His disciples that this was to be done in remembrance of Him.

It is rather a sad commentary upon our fallen human nature that everything God has given us has been abused by man.

No physical appetites that He has given have not been abused, and there are very few privileges we have that have not often been misused.

The same is true in connection with the two ordinances of the Christian church, the Lord's Supper and baptism. They were designed to continue in the church until the end of the present age, until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him.

But people either go to the extreme of making these ordinances saving sacraments or are inclined to become very careless about them. The fact is that neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper has anything to do with the salvation of our souls, except that they picture the way in which we are saved-through the death and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And yet they are of great importance because they help to draw our hearts out to Him and to give us a more vivid realization of our identification with Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

In the early church the Lord's Supper was observed very frequently; for a time at least it was observed every day.

In the early chapters of Acts they daily participated in the breaking of bread.

Afterward it was observed on the first day of the week, as Acts 20:7 would seem to show.

Acts 20:7

⁷ And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

I am sure that the more often we gather together “to show the Lord’s death until he come,” the greater blessing comes to us and the greater glory to the Lord, and yet in the early church this ordinance was abused.

The apostle, for instance, writing here says he cannot praise them for the way they attempted to celebrate the Lord’s Supper-“I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.”

It is possible to assemble to celebrate the Lord’s Supper and go away not benefited but rather harmed.

How was it that they were celebrating it for the worse rather than for the better?

In the first place there was a spirit of division working among them.

Some said, “I am of Paul, the teacher; I am of Apollos, the preacher; I am of Cephas, the exhorter,” and some said, “We do not recognize these gifts at all, we are only of Christ.”

Those at Corinth had corrupted the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper.

Reports of their conduct in the assemblies of the saints had already come to Paul before he wrote. Some of the reports may have been exaggerated, but Paul believed it when it was said they were dividing into factions when the congregation came together.

They had turned this sacred ordinance into a sacrilegious feast.

Paul deals with this in clarifying the instructions that he had received from the Lord.

He reminds them of the solemnness and seriousness of this observance on verses 27-32.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not

discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.* ³¹ *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.* ³² *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.* We consider what Paul states: "Let a man examine himself; for if we judge ourselves we should not be judged."

Note:

1. IT'S A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE (VS. 24-26)

1 Corinthians 11:24-26

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.*

This ordinance is to cause us to remember the Lord.

As we remember the Lord we:

A. Remember Our Agonizing Lord (vs. 24-25)

1 Corinthians 11:24-25

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.

The bread and the juice represent the body and blood of the Lord Jesus. The body that was broken and the blood that was shed.

Isaiah 52:14

¹⁴ As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

Isaiah 53:5

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

In dying, He opened wide the gates of salvation and now whosoever will can enter freely. As you swallow the bread and the juice, please remember just what He did for you at Calvary.

We not only remember Our Agonizing Lord but also:

B. Remember Our Achieving Lord (vs. 26)

1 Corinthians 11:26

²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

When the Lord died, He didn't stay that way for long! Thank God 3 days later, He arose from the Dead and conquered death, hell and the grave, insuring eternal life for all who will receive Him by faith!

Matthew 28:1-6

¹ In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. ² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: ⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. ⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. ⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

We not only remember Our Agonizing and Achieving Lord but also:

C. Remember Our Appearing Lord

After the Lord rose from the dead, He ascended back to Heaven and took up His place at the right hand of the Father.

Hebrews 10:12

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

His promise then was that He would return some day for His people.

John 14:1-3

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Acts 1:9-11

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so

come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Every time we take the bread and the juice, we are to remember that He died, He lives and one day soon, He is returning to take us to be with Him in Heaven!

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Not only is the ordinance a time of remembrance but it is also:

2. A TIME OF REPENTANCE

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

¹⁷ Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. ¹⁹ For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. ²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹ For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. ²² What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Though a believers sins are all forgiven at salvation we can still observe the Lord's Supper in an unworthy way.

Not only is the ordinance a time of remembrance and repentance but it is lastly:

3. A TIME OF RENEWAL (VS. 31)

1 Corinthians 11:31

³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

This is a good time to renew:

A. Our Vows

What have we promised the Lord that you haven't carried out?

Remember Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

¹ Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. ² Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. ³ For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a

fool's voice is known by multitude of words. ⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

We should consider the vows that we have made and not fulfilled them and recommit to fulfill them.

Not only should we consider renewing our vows but also:

B. Our Vision

The Lord's Supper should remind us why we are observing the ordinance.

Turn Isaiah 6:1-13

Isaiah 6:1-13

¹ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ⁴ And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am

a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. ⁶ Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷ And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. ⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. ⁹ And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. ¹¹ Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, ¹² And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. ¹³ But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

We hear a lot today about vision. Some that we hear is sound while a lot is not. We hear a lot of the vision that we need but we will see from God's Word the vision that we need.

Note We need a renewed vision:

- Isaiah's First Vision – A Vision of God (vs. 1-4)

Isaiah 6:1-4

¹ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ⁴ And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

The land was still mourning the death of the king.

Even though this was a tragic time for Isaiah, he was open to the working of the Spirit of God.

While he was in the temple he had a vision – “A vision of God.”

No one will ever do much **FOR** God until they have a vision **OF** God.

Isaiah had a vision of the Lord's

- Majesty (vs. 1-2)

Isaiah 6:1-2

¹ *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

- Holiness of God (vs. 3)

Isaiah 6:3

³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Everything connected with the Lord is holy.

The very fact that something is part of, or connected with God, makes it holy.

Isaiah is awed by the holiness of the Lord.

Before God can be described as being anything else, He is holy.

Instead of seeing the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies, Isaiah saw the Lord on the throne.

He didn't see the beauties of the temple. He saw the Lord.

He didn't see the size of the facility. He saw the Lord.

He didn't see the handy-work of man. He saw the Lord.

He didn't see the Purple and the Velvet. He saw the Lord.

May we not be handicapped by seeing only buildings, budgets, and "bigness of religion", and missing the greatness of God and His holiness.

- Isaiah's Second Vision – A Vision of Self (vs. 5-7)

Isaiah 6:5-7

⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. ⁶ Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷ And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

The very presence of the holiness of God will bring a deep and shadowing conviction upon the individual.

Any time and every time you are in the presence of God conviction will grip your soul.
The presence of His holiness brings conviction.

It caused Isaiah to see his condition.

When you line up beside the holiness of God, you will stand out like a fly in a bowl of milk.

Seeing the holiness of God not only caused Isaiah to see himself honestly but it revealed the horribleness of his sin.

Unless a man sees the holiness of God in its true meaning and significance, he cannot see the true nature of sin. It's not hard to see why America sees no wrong in immorality, injustice, and ignorance of righteousness.

We have not been brought into the presence of the holiness of God.

Explain, if you can, to me how a child of God can enter a service where the Word of God, the Name of God, and the Person of God are present, and made public, and then leave the service unchanged?

Either God and His Word are not presented or many people are rejecting it.

Isaiah saw himself unworthy.

Isaiah 6:5 always amazes me.

Isaiah 6:5

⁵ Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips:** for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah tells how unworthy he is after seeing the vision of himself. He dwells upon the fact that he is among unclean people also.

Why didn't he say, "Happy am I!"

He is in the presence of God and he isn't joyful?

He said instead, "Woe is me."

When Isaiah saw himself in the presence of God he realized his sinful condition. That can only bring "Woe is me." Isaiah is filled with contrition because of his sinfulness. When we make it a matter of effort to see the holiness of God it will automatically point out our sin and unworthiness.

- Isaiah's Third Vision – A Vision of the World (vs. 8-13)

Isaiah 6:8-13

⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. ⁹ And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. ¹¹ Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, ¹² And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. ¹³ But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

Notice:

- The Calling From God (vs. 8)

Isaiah 6:8

⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

- The Commission From God (vs.9)

Isaiah 6:9

⁹ And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

In verse 8 he accepted God's call before it was revealed what that destination and duration would be.

Note not only the calling and commission from God but also:

- The Condition of the Call

Isaiah's third vision changes his whole perspective of thinking. Notice his question to the Lord in verse 11.

Isaiah 6:11

¹¹ Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

How long is the calling from God? As long as the condition that He sent you to minister in exists.

As long as there is one boy, one girl, one man, one woman, one mother, one dad, one teenager. As long as there is a heathen somewhere who has not known of His grace, then the message must continue.

Not everyone will trust Christ as their Saviour.

We are not called of God to get this town saved, but we are called of God to take the Gospel message to everyone in this town.

Close:

The Lord's Supper should cause us to Remember the Lord, Repent or Confess Our Failures, and Renew Our Vows and Vison.