

WHAT WE BELIEVE – God Saves

1 Corinthians 11:26-29

Did you know that it matters how we come to this table & partake together?

Today is World-Wide Communion Sunday... a day when we join with churches all over the world to celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

Together we make up one family... one body... one Church... **Ephesians 4:3-6**
This unity is only made possible because of the God who saves...

"We believe Jesus conquered the power of sin, the devil, & death itself, when on the 3rd day he rose from the dead. Jesus' victory ensures our victory, through God's eternal gift of salvation by faith in the resurrected Jesus."

The gift of God, in Christ, is 3-fold... It is not just about what He has done... but also about what He is doing today... & what He will bring to completion!

It is this past, present, & future reality, in Christ, that joins us all together... The sacraments give us eyes to see this truth & the opportunity to respond!

H.C. #66 - What are the sacraments? *They are visible, holy signs and seals instituted by God so that by their use God may make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and put the divine seal on that promise; namely to grant us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, by grace alone, because of the one sacrifice of Christ accomplished on the cross.*

Too often we rush this... Missing the deep significance & true meaning. Today we are going to take our time... Communion is the sermon for today!

Communion Liturgy: *Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, the holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, communion, & hope.*

We come in remembrance that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our flesh & blood, & to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law, even to the bitter & shameful death of the cross... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table to remember Christ's sacrifice... The ultimate act of love for you and me."

By Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by him... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table to remember that it is not our works, but God's grace that truly saves us."

We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table to declare the good news that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ is coming again." Personal story

In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us as the true

heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal. In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

Video clip - "We come to this table to be fed, to be nourished, and to be sustained by this bread and this cup, and by the body and blood of Jesus."

We come in hope, believing that this bread & this cup are a pledge & a foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold him, made like unto him in his glory... Significance? Sign & seal...

Video clip - "We come to this table to look forward, to catch a glimpse, to get a brief snapshot of the eternal banquet that has been set before us."

Since by his death, resurrection, & ascension Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body, so are we to receive this Supper in true love, mindful of the communion of the saints... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table to be united with Christ, & with one another, remembering that we are One body, in Him." **A Spirit-ual bond!**

Prayer: *Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices*... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table once again to renew our commitment to Jesus, and to the pursuit of His kingdom."

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith & grow up in all things into Christ our Lord... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table to reflect, and to lay down all the things that are holding us back & weighing us down at the feet of Jesus."

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, Come Lord Jesus... Significance?

Video clip - "We come to this table as we are... to be transformed, & sent out as people marked by these elements... the body and blood of Jesus."

All those who have confessed their faith in Christ, & are baptized members of His Church, & have prepared their hearts to partake (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are welcome at the Lord's Table... Significance?

Let's take a few moments to prepare our hearts before we partake together.

- Remembrance... Communion... Hope... Confession... Amen.

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