

Looking Forward to Communion with Anticipation Topical

Communion Meditation By Phillip G. Kayser at DCC on 7-17-2011

The subject for today's communion message is looking forward to communion with anticipation. When I was a youth, I didn't. Communion day was anything but joyful. And the ministers made sure that it stayed that way by emphasizing only the passages that dealt with judgment. One dear pastor (who has gone on to glory, but was a dear heart) tended to make the once a month communion into a funeral dirge that was totally depressing. And reading from the King James he intoned, "**He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself.**" And because of that mistranslation "damnation" I was scared to death that I was going to go to hell if I didn't do it quite right. And I don't want to minimize the discipline of the Lord. In 1Corinthians 10-11 God did give disciplines to Christians who partook unworthily. Many were weak, sick, and had even died. In the revival under Hezekiah there were many who were sick because they ate of the Passover without preparing their hearts (2Chron. 30:18-20). So there are judgments that are connected with partaking unworthily.

But what is completely left out of the discussion are the many passages that promise blessing upon blessing to those who eat of the Lord's Table in a worthy manner. In fact there are so many blessings that believers felt great sorrow when they couldn't come to the Table. They looked forward to God's blessing being poured out in their lives. In Luke 22:15 Jesus said, "**with fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you.**" Can you say that? Can you say that you look forward to eating the Lord's Table with fervent desire? And Jesus wasn't the first one to say that. David longed for the tabernacles of God. He longed to offer his Peace Offerings at the temple, saying that "**no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.**" This is why Numbers 10:10 spoke of the day of communion meals as "**the day of your gladness.**"

This past Thursday I did a computer search of passages dealing with communion and was surprised to find so many connected with joy. I found numerous passages that said things like this: "**you shall eat there before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice**" or it spoke of rejoicing greatly over the Passover. Nehemiah 12:14 says that God made them rejoice with great joy. Why did they look forward to the communion meal so much? It wasn't because they were looking forward to getting disciplined. No. It was because they were looking forward to the blessing of the Lord which makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it. So let me give you a tiny sampling of the kinds of

blessings that God promised to give to those who came to the Communion Meal with hearts set on Him.

The first blessing God gives is spiritual satisfaction. Psalm 22:26 says, “**the poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD.**” The poor shall eat and be satisfied. To be satisfied with life is a blessing that many wealthy people long for but cannot have. It is truly a blessing. I don’t know how it is connected to this feast, but it is just as surely present for those who come in faith as judgment is connected for those who come in rebellion. Any place you have judgment, you have blessing implied where we partake worthily.

Exodus 34 promises God’s divine protection for those who came to the feasts. He said, “**neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in a year**” (v. 24). I will protect you.

Psalm 51 promises that God will be pleased with us (v. 19). I don’t know about you, but God’s divine pleasure is a tremendous reward. Feeling His frown is misery.

Deuteronomy 14:23 says that through this covenant meal we learn to fear God: “**you shall eat before the Lord your God...that you may learn to fear the LORD.**” That is truly a blessing because it is by the fear of the Lord that we depart from evil and the fear of the Lord is the beginning of true wisdom and godliness.

Jeremiah told Israel that God would only be pleased with their eating of communion (7:21-22) if they inclined their hearts and ways to him (vv. 23-27). Nevertheless, in the midst of his rebuke, he commanded them to eat (v. 21) properly “**that it may be well for you.**” It’s easy to miss the blessing in the rebuke, but the blessing is clearly “**eat... that it may be well for you.**” That’s a general promise of everything going well in life.

Revelation 19:9 says “**Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**”

But I love Deuteronomy 14:29. It promises blessing in every area of our lives. It says, “**come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.**”

Though God does curse those who despise and misuse the feast, we should always remember that 1 Corinthians 10 (which lists most of God’s disciplines in connection with the Lord’s Table) does not call the cup of the table a cup of cursing. He calls it “**the cup of blessing.**” Why? Because it

pours forth blessings in the lives of those who sincerely partake. This is a meal that is so important that we should grieve when we must be absent from it. And as soon as our covenant children understand the Gospel and believe, they should be admitted. We should not withhold the table from them. This is a covenant meal and it should include all those who love our covenant Lord and have sufficient faith to lay hold of Christ and His blessings and sufficient understanding to know what is involved in this meal.

If you are a brother or sister in Christ who has made public profession of faith and has been admitted to the Lord's Table in either this or some other evangelical church, we invite you to enter into the blessing of the Lord by sharing with us in this cutting of the covenant; this renewing of our fealty to the Lord, and His renewing of His faithfulness to us. Prov. 10:22 says, "The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it." This morning come and be blessed. Let's pray.