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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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Made Rich by the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

I. Part of Our Inheritance Stipend... But the Checks Are Uncashed

II. The Lord's Supper Abused in Corinth (vs. 17-22)

1 Corinthians 11:17-22 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹ for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²² Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

A. Paul's Strong Rebukes for Corinthian Church: no praise, more harm

B. Divisions, Not Unity... Therefore, it is NOT Lord's Supper you eat

C. Selfish Practices Rebuked

1. Eating without waiting for anyone else... "I'm all that matters"
2. Allowing poor members to get completely shut out
3. Establishing a hierarchy based on material wealth and power
4. And the ultimate disgrace: DRUNKENNESS

D. Eat and Drink Ordinary Meals AT HOME!!

1 Corinthians 11:22 Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?

E. Therefore: Final Rebuke

1 Corinthians 11:22 What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

Remedy: solid doctrinal instruction

III. The Lord's Supper Instituted by Christ (vs. 23-25)

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

A. "For": the Reason for the Rebuke is the Reality

B. What I Received from the Lord is What I Passed on to You

- a. Paul was NO EYE WITNESS of the Last Supper
- b. Neither were any of these Greek Christians
- c. What Paul knows about the Lord's Supper was given him directly by Christ just as he had the gospel message itself:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Galatians 1:11-12 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

- d. he passed on to them years before... now he wanted to remind

e. AND SO ALSO US, we must learn from the Scriptures

C. The Timing of the Last Supper

1. Every translation: The “night Jesus was **betrayed**” (delivered)

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

2. But the sense of Jesus’ **betrayal** is prominent: Judas

John 13:18 "...this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'"

3. not everyone who sits at table with Jesus has a genuine faith in Him

4. So... SERIOUS SELF-EXAMINATION

D. What Jesus Did

1. He took bread in His hands

2. He gave thanks

3. He broke the bread

4. He gave it to them all

5. And He established the significance of these actions:

This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.

6. In the same way

7. After the supper

8. He took the cup

9. He made a similar statement:

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

E. The Theological Significance of these Actions

1. Thanksgiving

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

2. The Necessity of the Incarnation:

Colossians 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

- a. PHYSICAL nature of Jesus' life on earth... not merely APPEAR to be human

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

- b. BUT this does not mean real presence or transubstantiation
- c. "this IS my body" or "this IS my blood" is insufficient to teach real presence... Jesus also says "I AM the door for the sheep"
- d. That the bread and wine ACTUALLY BECOME the body and blood of Jesus is nowhere taught in the Bible ... it would have been incomprehensible to the Apostles

3. The Necessity of Substitutionary Atonement

- a. This is my body which is FOR YOU...

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit

b. This atonement is especially done in His blood

Hebrews 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness

4. The Establishment of a New Covenant “in His blood”

Hebrews 8:10-12 I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ¹¹ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

F. The Theology of the Lord’s Supper: Focus, Recognition, Remembrance BY FAITH

IV. The First Purpose: Proclamation for Remembrance (vs. 26)

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

A. Remembrance

1. Astonishing, isn't it, that we would need to be reminded of Jesus...

Deuteronomy 8:11-14 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart

B. Proclamation

1. We “proclaim **the Lord’s death** ... **until He comes**”
2. PROCLAMATION: Looking backward looking forward
3. “proclamation” Greek word used 11TIMES in Acts to refer to the clear proclamation of Christ
4. Here, however, the audience is BOTH lost AND saved people
5. proclaiming **past** and **future** again & again to church AND visitors

V. The Second Purpose: Self-Examination in Light of Christ (vs. 27-32)

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. ³² When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

A. Serious Words of Spiritual Warning

B. What Does it Mean to “Recognize the Body of the Lord”

1. The Greek word used in verse 29 is the same as in verse 31:

1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

2. It means to assess properly, with sober judgment, **by faith**...a serious, weighty, joyful, spiritual thing
3. It is for this reason that ONLY BAPTIZED BELIEVERS in Jesus Christ should partake of the Lord’s Supper...

a. An unbeliever would be eating and drinking judgment upon himself, because he CANNOT recognize the body and blood of Jesus by faith

b. first step after conversion water baptism... not Lord's Supper

C. The Need for Faith... Everything in Christian life is by faith

Matthew 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"

1. So it is with the Lord's Supper... ACCORDING TO OUR FAITH

2. So, as we partake saturate our minds with the gospel history

3. I am AGAINST the Zwinglian view "bare memorial"...

D. The Role of the Holy Spirit

E. Assessing Your Spiritual LIFE

1 Corinthians 11:28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

1. The simple question in front of you: Are you truly a Christian?

2. "examine" = to test and prove the quality of

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?

3. search out heart and life for clear evidence of being born again

a. Do you believe that Jesus is God in the flesh and that He died in your place on the cross?

b. Are you trusting in Christ's death on the cross alone for the forgiveness of your sins?

c. Do you see evidence of the Spirit's work in your life? Does the Spirit testify in your heart that you are a child of God?

d. Does the Spirit pour out the love of God into your hearts?

- e. Does that love through the Spirit extend to other Christians? Do you love the brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - f. Do you see a principle of spiritual vitality, of growth in your life? Are you growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ?
 - g. Do you yearn for God's word? Do you feed on it regularly?
 - h. Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Does it genuinely grieve you when you sin against God?
 - i. Do you see a spiritual warfare in your life against indwelling sin? Are you regularly putting sin to death by the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - j. Do you yearn for heaven and to see God face to face?
4. All of these questions should be in front of you daily anyway... but the Lord's Supper especially is a time for this kind of inward searching... of reflection on your spiritual life.

F. Assessing Your Spiritual HEALTH

1. A second issue is your spiritual health... your vitality
2. You may know with great certainty that you are a Christian and that your sins are forgiven in His name... but how is your Christian walk going?
3. Have you allowed any patterns of sin to creep into your life? Are there new or developing patterns of idolatry... of love for worldly things?
4. Are you at odds with any other person... a member of the Body of Christ, maybe? Have you allowed unforgiveness and bitterness to harden your heart toward that person? Are aware that you have sinned against another person? Are you willing to commit yourself to go make it right as soon as you possibly can?
5. Are you spiritually GROWING? Are you healthy?? How is your prayer life? How is your attitude in general? Are you rejoicing in

the Lord and at peace with Him? Or are you frustrated, negative, angry, irritable?

6. The Lord's Supper is a great time to EXAMINE YOURSELF... not just that you are saved, but that you are healthy

G. Judge Yourself and Discipline Yourself

1. If the Lord uncovers sin in your life, he then graciously gives you TIME to repent and address the problem yourself
2. After mentioning that a number of the church was weak and sick and some had "fallen asleep":

1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

3. God wants us to take decisive action against our sin and kill it while there is time; if so, He doesn't need to discipline us any further
4. BUT even if God does have to act strongly in our lives, it is only to save us from final condemnation on Judgment Day:

1 Corinthians 11:32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

H. Summary:

1. Lord's Supper a powerful time to reflect on Christ: past/future
2. It is a time to give God thanks for our salvation
3. It is a time for the unity of the Body
4. It is also a time for serious soul-searching... killing sin

VI. Final Words of Instruction (vs. 33-34)

1 Corinthians 11:33-34 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.

A. Paul's Final Words: Unity in the Body

1. Paul wants us to wait for each other, so that we can eat together
 2. It's more than just good manners... it is a clear symbol of the final perfect unity we will enjoy in heaven
- B. Let Us Partake!!