

## Looking Backward & Forward at Year's End

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 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." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

### **In communion we remember Jesus and we foresee Jesus.**

#### **1. Communion involves remembering Jesus.**

"Do this in remembrance of me"

- a. Remember his person
  - i. 2 Timothy 2:8 (ESV)
  - ii. The bread and the cup signify Him  
1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV)
- b. Remember his work
  - i. Ephesians 2:12-16 (ESV)
  - ii. Taking the bread and the cup signifies our appropriating His life, death, and resurrection
- c. Remember his union with us
  - i. John 6:56 (ESV)
  - ii. Taking the bread and the cup signifies our union with Christ
- d. Remember his body (the church)
  - i. 1 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV)
  - ii. Taking the bread and the cup signifies our union with the body of Christ

Spurgeon's comments on this passage:

It seems then, that Christians may forget Christ! There could be no need for this loving exhortation, if there were not a fearful supposition that our memories might prove treacherous. Nor is this a bare supposition: it is, alas! too well confirmed in our experience, not as a possibility, but as a lamentable fact. It appears almost impossible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the dying Lamb, and loved with an everlasting love by the eternal Son of God, should forget that gracious Saviour; but, if startling to the ear, it is, alas! too apparent to the eye to allow us to deny the crime. Forget him who never forgot us! Forget him who poured his blood forth for our sins! Forget him who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us, that we suffer him to be as a wayfaring man tarrying but for a night. He whom we should make the abiding tenant of our memories is but a visitor therein. The cross where one would think that memory would linger, and unmindfulness would be an unknown intruder, is desecrated by the feet of forgetfulness. Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus? Some creature steals away your heart, and you are unmindful of him upon whom your affection ought to be set. Some earthly business engrosses your attention when you should fix your eye steadily upon the cross.

## 2. Communion involves foreseeing Jesus.

“Until he comes”

- a. Foresee his person
  - i. Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)
  - ii. Taking communion reminds us He will come
  
- b. Foresee his work
  - i. Colossians 1:19-20 (ESV)
  - ii. In taking communion until he comes we are reminded that his work will be complete
  
- c. Foresee his union with us
  - i. John 6:35-40 (ESV)
  - ii. Taking communion until he comes reminds us our union is everlasting
  
- d. Foresee his body
  - i. Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)
  - ii. Taking communion until he comes reminds us our union with His people is an everlasting union

## 3. We should remember well (2013) and foresee with faith (2014).

- a. In remembering 2013, see Jesus!
  - i. In the good times - James 1:17 (ESV)
  - ii. In the bad times - Romans 8:28 (ESV)
  
- b. In foreseeing 2014, see Jesus!
  - i. In good times - Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV), 2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)
  - ii. In bad times - 2 Peter 2:9 (ESV), 2 Timothy 2:11-13 (ESV)

### Application

We've dealt with the past and we've dealt with the future, but what about now. Communion speaks to that as well!

“As often as you drink this cup”

1. All those things we considered about Jesus are true for you right now. As you put the bread in your mouth and put the cup to your lips, the blessings from his broken body and shed blood are true for you. As you take the bread and drink the cup, Jesus the Son of God is in you, in union with you. As you are nourished by the bread and the cup, know that you are engrafted into his body and adopted into his family. Believe these things!
  
2. Be here for communion in 2014!