

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2010

Rev. Craig A. Patterson (Based upon the sermon
Series “Words of Life from the Cross,” CPH, 2010)

“The Remembering Word”

(Text: I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Context: The Apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth regarding their aberrant way of observing the Lord’s Supper. He writes to remind them of what he delivered to them regarding the Lord’s Supper. They had gotten off track with their observance of the Lord’s Supper. He condemns their current practice of combining their so-called “Agape meals” with the Lord’s Supper. Paul states, “...for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk....What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.” (I Cor. 11:21-22). Rather, Paul continues, “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread...”

I. The Corinthians Had Forgotten The Special And Precious Gifts Of God That He Had Given To All Believers In The Lord’s Supper.

- A. They had allowed the words of the Lord “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins” to be omitted.
 - 1. Luther teaches, “...these words are the words of a testament, and even an ordinary person’s last will and testament may not be changed once that person has died;” (Luther’s Small Catechism, p. 233, CPH, 1986).
 - 2. Also, we read in Luther’s Small Catechism, “These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation” (Luther’s Small Catechism, p.237, CPH, 1986).
- B. They had allowed the meal to become a regular meal to satisfy normal hunger and thirst to the point of gluttony and even intoxication.
 - 1. Some were hungry and grabbing food to fill themselves and others were getting drunk.
- C. Today, also, some believers have forgotten, in different ways, the true gifts given to repentant sinners in the Lord’s Supper.
 - 1. Some, today, think that it is not an important meal.
 - 2. Some, today, do not realize the purpose and intent of the Lord in giving to believers the Lord’s Supper.

II. Paul Reminded The Corinthians That Jesus Said, “This Is My Body, Which Is For You...This Cup Is The New Testament Of My Blood.”

- A. Our Lord places these gifts into this supper for our benefit.
 - 1. The gift of forgiveness of sins is given to every believer in the Lord’s Supper.
 - 2. As Luther rightly puts it, “Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.”
- B. We do this in remembrance of Him and proclaim His death until He comes (again).
 - 1. We are remembering Him to our own benefit.
 - 2. He is remembering us by giving us these gifts of Body and Blood all over again for our living out of our lives in the current day world.
- C. When we “eat the bread and drink the cup,” we are proclaiming the Lord’s death until He comes.
 - 1. This benefits us by drawing our hearts back to the fact that ‘He did it for us, Yes, He did it for us on Calvary! There He died for us! There He won the battle over our true enemies, i.e., sin, death, and the devil!
 - 2. This benefits others (as they witness us partaking in communion, as they encounter us with our faith in Christ having been renewed in the Lord’s Supper).
- D. Just as the angel of death ‘passed over’ the houses with the blood of the sacrificial lamb placed upon the doorposts, the blood of Jesus shed on the cross, and given to believers in the Lord’s Supper, God’s wrath passes over us and we are declared forgiven, righteous, and holy because of Jesus.
- E. Thanks be to God for this most precious gift!