“A COVENANT OF PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE”

Sunday School Lesson No. XIII- November 26, 2017
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: I Corinthians 11:23-34
Required Reading: I Corinthians 11:1-34; Jude 1:1-25
Memory Text: I Corinthians 11:25, “After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”
Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI), Word Search 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible

INTRODUCTION
From Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, Heart of the Lesson: “The greatest act of love throughout all history was when Jesus Christ laid down His life on behalf of mankind. He became the ultimate sacrifice and the atonement for our sins! When we take the elements of the Lord’s Supper, we do so in remembrance of the price that Jesus paid. We must not make the Lord’s Supper common, and we must not take it lightly. Jesus is the Passover Lamb. He died so that sin would no longer have claim to our souls.”

During this Fall Quarter, our total emphasis has been on the Covenants of the Bible. We have studied…
✓ The Rainbow Covenant in Genesis 8:20-22 and 9:8-17
✓ The Covenant of Abram and Circumcision—it’s symbol in Genesis 15:1-6, 17-21 and 17:1-14
✓ The Covenant of the Sabbath Observance in Exodus 31:12-18
✓ The Covenant of God with David and his descendants in II Samuel 7:1-6, 8-10, 12-16
✓ We studied several others and also remember The Promised New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:27-34.

We now close this quarter with the Covenant of the New Testament Jesus made with the Church – we know this Covenant as the Lord’s Supper! I entitle this lesson “A Covenant of Personal Remembrance.”

Anticipated Power Points:
- A Covenant of the Blood. I Corinthians 11:25-26
- A Covenant of Perpetual Binding. I Corinthians 11:27-34
LESSON OUTLINE
“A Covenant of Personal Remembrance”

Paul the apostle had a great responsibility to instruct the Gentile churches in the knowledge and doctrinal truths of a sacred relationship with Christ. These Churches like Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi and others were established with a tradition born in paganism. That means they were steeped idolatry, fornication, human sacrifices, etc.

Jesus raises Paul and others to teach the congregants that there are new requirements to worship and a special one is the Lord’s Supper. Note verse 23, which gives the source of Paul’s teaching to this Gentile Metropolis. I Corinthians 11:23-25 tells us, ‘For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.’

Christ wants His Church to honor His personal sacrifice for their sin unto salvation by remembering and practicing the Lord’s Supper, which was born out of the Passover, but not exclusively. Only two of the elements were taken from the Passover – bread and wine. And as we made clear, the bread represents the Body of Jesus, which was offered as a sacrifice for the sin of the people. Remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah concerning the Messiah (Jesus Christ). Isaiah 53:5 says, “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Read Psalm 22 as well!

II. A Covenant of the Blood. I Corinthians 11:25-26
The writer Moses wrote in Leviticus 17:11, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

Beloved, the Covenant of Christ’s blood is so serious as we as Christians remember the ultimate price that Jesus paid: “The cup (the wine) in like manner serves the same purpose as the bread, but reminds us of the blood of Christ that was spilled on the Cross…The ‘cup,’ used figuratively for its contents, is a reference to Jesus’ blood that seals the New Covenant, which is based on a better promise (Heb. 8:6; 9:15-22). This replaces the Old Covenant that God made with Israel.”

III. A Covenant of Perpetual Binding. I Corinthians 11:27-34
Because of the high value of this Covenant on the life of the Son of God, everything about it is super serious. We are encouraged to partake of this Communion of the Lord’s Supper, but not foolishly or in any way to trifle with what it represents. To do that can cause serious consequences such as chronic sickness, chastisement and even physical death upon the violator! This binding perpetual covenant is to be taken very seriously. One’s physical life could be at stake, and surely the Lord’s honor is to be upheld with all dignity and seriousness!

Let each believer take personal inventory on a regular basis, especially when taking the Lord’s Supper! The price that Christ paid for our personal redemption should cause us to handle His Supper with true respect perpetually! The church at Corinth had its share of ignorant offenses, but God’s desire was not punishment, but reaching and teaching that they would become a people loved and bound to know His love and Holiness (Heb. 12:5-8).

CLOSING
We close with the words found in II Peter 3:9. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

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LOOKING AHEAD: December 3, 2017 Acts 3:11-21

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.