

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Broken Bread and Poured out Wine

Week of October 4, 2020 A.D.

Jesus did not die on a cross to enable us to live a life of ease, comfort, and pleasure in this world of sin. No! Jesus died on a cross to pay the penalty for sin on our behalf so that we now can share in the fellowship of His suffering and attain to the resurrection of the dead. Let's now talk about that in this lesson.

Read Philippians 3:10-11

The Greek work “koinonia” refers to the concept of communion or fellowship. When the word “koinonia” is used in the Bible, it identifies the ideal state of fellowship and unity which should exist among Christians as the body of Christ.

1. How much value and/or importance do you place on having fellowship with: (a) your immediate family? (b) your inner circle of friends? (c) your church small group? and (d) your fellow church members? Please explain the reasons for each of your answers.
2. Please describe the way and/or ways in which Christ suffered during His life on earth. Could Christ have avoided any and/or all of the suffering which He experienced on earth? If not, why not? If so, why did he choose to suffer anyway? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
3. Read verse 10 again. Please explain what Paul means when Paul states that “he wants to know Christ”. Do you “want to know Christ”? If not, why not? If so, what effort are you making to know Christ? Please explain the details and the reasons for your answers.
4. Did Paul already know Christ when Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians? If not, what gave Paul the authority to teach and to write as an apostle of Christ? If Paul did already know Christ, then why did Paul write what he said in verse 10? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
5. Did Paul share in the sufferings of Christ? If not, why not? If so, (a) what were those sufferings? (b) did the sufferings of Paul enable Paul to experience fellowship with Christ? and (c) did Christ and/or Paul receive any benefit from Paul's suffering? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Psalm 119:67-71

6. “Afflict” means to “cause pain or suffering; to affect or trouble.” Does affliction always lead to obedience? How and why can affliction cause a person to “learn God's decrees”? Please explain your answers.

Read Philippians 2:1-2

7. Do these verses pre-suppose (and/or assume) that every follower of Christ does need and/or will need (a) to be encouraged, (b) to be comforted, (c) to experience the indwelling fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and (d) to receive tenderness and compassion at some point in time? Please explain why or why not separately for (a), (b), (c), and (d).
8. Would there be any way to experience the acts of love and kindness mentioned in (a) through (d) of question 7 if suffering did not exist? Is suffering simply an unavoidable part of life? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.

Read Philippians 2:3-8

9. Do these verses tell us that we should do everything that we can possibly do in an effort to avoid suffering? If not, what do these verses tell us to do and why? Please explain your answers.

Read Mark 10:17-23

10. As far as lifestyle and comfort are concerned, who had the more advantageous situation: (a) the man of great wealth who is identified in this passage or (b) you as a modern-day citizen of America? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
11. Does Jesus want every Christian to enter the kingdom of God? If so, what is Jesus saying to us in verse 23? What does verse 21 say to us personally? Refer again to verse 21. Does Jesus want each of us to be eternally wealthy or eternally poor? Does God give to each of us the freedom to determine the extent to which we will receive wealth, glory, and authority to enjoy for eternity? Please explain your answers.
12. What do these verses from Mark 10 tell us about the extent of our desire to (a) know Christ, (b) know the power of Christ's resurrection, (c) know the fellowship of sharing in Christ's sufferings, and (d) become like Christ in His death? Do you believe that you have "attained to the resurrection from the dead"? If so, what is currently the driving motivation for your life and why? Please explain your answers.

Consider: Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Does Jesus want each of us to be able to truthfully declare that same statement to the world? You think about that. Amen.