

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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In Remembrance of Me

(Jerry Fite)

When Christians partake of the Lord's supper, they are recognizing the “*participation*” or fellowship they have with the body and blood of Christ regarding their salvation, and the unity they share with others who so partake all over the world (*I Corinthians 10:16-17*). They are also “*proclaiming*” the Lord's death, until He returns (*I Corinthians 11:26*). They are also “*remembering*.”

When Jesus instituted what Paul calls “the Lord's supper” (*I Corinthians 11:20*), He took the bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. He said, “*This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me*” (*Luke 22:19*). In like manner He took the cup and said, “*this cup is the new covenant in my blood, this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me*” (*I Corinthians 11:25*). So, as we eat and drink the elements—a physical act; we remember the Lord — a mental act.

Our mind is to be active as we partake. But the mental activity is not “New Age” in connecting with our higher self, but is remembering the Lord and what He did. He freely gave his body to

die on the cross so we could have life in abundance (*John 10:10-11, 17-18*). We are not engaged in “mysticism”, but are understanding fact - remembering Jesus shedding his blood in a public execution on a cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem. We remember the shedding of His blood in death in light of Him ratifying the new covenant of forgiveness and remission of sins for ourselves (*I Corinthians 11:25, Matthew 11:28, Luke 22:20*). Our hearts are grateful, as we remember Him.

We remember what Jesus went through before his death on the cross. Paul speaks of Jesus instituting the Lord's supper on the night in which He was “*betrayed*” (*I Corinthians 11:23*). It is one thing to die by the hands of civil authorities, but quite another to be given up to die by one close to you — a friend. Judas, one of Jesus' apostles, whom Jesus called “*friend*,” betrayed Him with a kiss (*Matthew 26:49-50*).

Jesus came with His apostles to pray earnestly to the Father, as he contemplated carrying out the will of the Father. It was intense. He was facing a death that “*greatly amazed*”, and “*sore troubled*” Him (*Mark 14:33*).

“*And being in agony He prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became as it were drops of blood falling down upon the ground*” (*Luke 22:44*). What anguish for our Lord, yet three of his closest apostles could not keep awake as he went through such painful contemplation. He says, “*Couldst thou not watch for one hour?*” (*Mark 14:37*).

Yes, the hearts of the apostles were sorrowful, forcing their eye lids shut for relief. But Jesus awakened their senses to the necessity of prayer so they would not fall into temptation in such a state of mind (*Luke 22:45-46*). In Jesus' most trying moment, He is thinking of the spiritual welfare of others. Our hearts focus on Jesus' point of view, as we remember Him.

Jesus did not ask God to bless the bread and the cup when He instituted the Lord's supper; He “*gave thanks*” for the bread and the cup (*I Corinthians 11:24, 25; Matthew 26:27*). Knowing a shameful and painful death awaited Him, He gave thanks for the emblems representing his body and blood in such death. Our hearts are amazed, as we remember Him.