

Truth and Spirit Ministries

The Lords Supper - Part II

The Substance behind the Bread

Before our Lord was nailed to the cross, he was cruelly beaten in his body. When he was nailed to the cross, he suffered indescribable pain. As he was lifted up on the cross, he endured tortuous agony. *He gave his body for us.* The bread that we partake of during Communion is symbolic of the body of Christ, his suffering and what he has taken upon himself on our behalf. Jesus broke the bread during the last Passover in front of his disciples and said, **“This is my body which is given for you.”** The Lord sacrificed his body for different reasons. Because he suffered in the body, he was able to obtain not only the salvation of our souls but also all of those things which accompany salvation as well. How did Jesus give his body for us? The scriptures reveal many things.

Jesus Bore Our Sins in His Body

We learn in the word that Jesus bore our sins in his body upon the Cross. It is written:

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness... (I Peter 2:24)

Again, if we bear in mind that when Jesus died on the cross there were divine exchanges made, we will be able to simply receive what God has given us in Christ. Jesus had to first take our sins before we could live for righteousness. It was at the point that Jesus bore our sins on the cross that we had our sins taken from us. It was during the crucifixion that our old self (sinful nature) was crucified. It was at the point that Jesus died that we died to sin. (Romans 6:1-6) Jesus took away our sins in his body, and he then washed them thoroughly away with his shed blood. (There will be more about this in Part III) It is because of this that we are now able to enjoy right standing with God.

By taking away our sins on the cross, Jesus, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God, was also able to condemn sin in sinful man. When this happened it set us free from the dominion of sin. By imparting his righteousness to us, this now enables us to actually live the righteous requirements that God demands of us. We do this when we live according to the power of the Spirit. (Romans 8:1-4) Also when Jesus bore our sins, this helped to pave the way for us to enter in beyond the veil, into the Most Holy Place and be able to stand before God.

Jesus' Body Opened the Way through the Veil and Into the Holy Place

When Jesus died on the Cross, it is recorded that the curtain or veil of the Jewish temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Matthew 27:51) The veil within the Temple was actually a symbol or shadow of the real body of Jesus. When Jesus sacrificed himself, this was a sign from God that the death of his Son had removed the barrier that was placed between a holy God and sinful man. All who receive God's Son and his atonement would now have personal access into the very presence of God. As believers in Christ, we are able to enjoy unlimited access into the very

presence of God and have a personal relationship with him because of what Jesus has done for us. The book of Hebrews explains:

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, *his body*, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”
(Hebrews 10:19-23)

This symbolism of the veil of the temple that also represented Jesus’ body also teaches us that Jesus is the only way to be reconciled back into a personal relationship with God- God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is in total agreement with other scriptures as well. (John 10:7, 14:6, Acts 4:12) We now have access into the Holy Place through faith and grace. God did not tear the veil to let grace in, he tore the veil to let grace out!

Jesus Took our Punishment

Why did Jesus have to endure such terrible suffering in his body? It was because God declared under the law that sin had to be punished in one form or another. (Deuteronomy 28) The ultimate punishment of course was death. Because all human beings have sinned, the law declared that the sinner must pay the penalty for their sins. Thankfully, God had devised another plan to take care of the punishment for our sins. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins instead! Had Jesus not come and paid the price, we would have all been doomed to pay the ultimate price for our sins which is eternal death.

The Lord came into this world as the sinless, spotless Lamb that God required for the payment of our sins. This is why Jesus suffered so terribly in his body. He did it for you and me that we might have life and life more abundantly. Thank you Lord for all that you have done for us! When we look at the atonement of Christ in this light, we can now understand the power behind the free gift of grace that God has given us. Jesus took our punishment so that we wouldn’t have to. He did this freely of his own will and because of his great love for us. He gave us what we didn’t deserve. That’s what makes grace so amazing!

The Bible also teaches us that Jesus suffered in his flesh (body) to learn obedience. Because Jesus subjected his body to obedience, we can also live a life of obedience because he now lives and dwells within us!

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all of them that obey him... (Hebrews 5:7-9 KJV)

He has made it possible for us to obey God through the power of the atonement and the life of the Spirit. Jesus did for us what we were unable to do for ourselves.

“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”
(Romans 8:3-4 NIV)

Jesus Took the Curse of the Law

The Lord also took the curse of the law in his body on the cross. Paul wrote:

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

Please note why the Lord took the curse of the law upon the cross:

“He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.” (Galatians 3:13-14)

The Message Bible brings even more clarity and power to this scripture:

“Christ redeemed us from that self-defeating, cursed life by absorbing it completely into himself. Do you remember the Scripture that says, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree?” That is what happened when Jesus was nailed to the Cross: He became a curse, and at the same time dissolved the curse. And now, because of that, the air is cleared and we can see that Abraham’s blessing is present and available for non-Jews too. We are all able to receive God’s life, his Spirit, in and with us by believing—just the way Abraham received it.”

We learn in the word that Jesus came not only to redeem us from sin and death but also the *curse of the law*. Time does not permit me to go into all the specifics of that subject but suffice it to say that the Law of Moses carried a divine curse if not kept in its entirety. Of course this task was completely impossible for man. This is why Jesus literally became a curse on the cross so that we might be delivered from the curse that came with breaking the law. He did this so believers under the New Covenant could live in the newness and freedom of the Spirit. We are no longer being condemned or punished for sin but forgiven now that the curse of the law had been removed and his blood shed through the cross. God is no longer punishing us for sin or counting them against us. Praise God for his redeeming sacrifice!

Please note the exchange that Jesus made for us as stated in verses 13-14. The Lord took the curse of the law that came because of men’s inability to keep it because of the sinful flesh. (Romans) By taking the curse of the law upon himself, he was then able to remove it out of the way entirely. Because of this men are no longer condemned by the law and we are now able to freely receive all the blessings of God simply by God’s free grace and faith in Christ. (Galatians 3:13-18)

This Included the Ten Commandments!

Did you know that Jesus also abolished the law in his body on the Cross? Many Christians may not know this but the Lord Jesus abolished *the Ten Commandments* and ALL the regulations of the law through the atonement.

“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished *in his flesh* (body) the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.” (Ephesians 2:14-15 KJV)

A lot of believers may know that they do not have to keep the regulations of the law, such as giving animal sacrifices, physical circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, New Moons and Feast Days and abstaining from “unclean” food etc, etc, today. But many will argue with the fact that Christ

abolished the Ten Commandments. This statement however did not come from man but from God himself. Do we really think that the Lord did not know what he was actually accomplishing for us while he was on the cross? He did know what he was doing and he has revealed this powerful truth to us through the New Covenant scriptures.

Jesus had to abolish the entire law, including the Ten Commandments to get rid of the enmity between God and man, Jew and Gentile. The inability of man to keep God's law caused him to be in direct opposition to God. The Jews, who had the law (yet couldn't really keep it), were at enmity (opposition) with the Gentiles because they saw them as heathen or dogs. By Jesus tearing down the wall of partition of the law, this made peace between God and man, Jew and Gentile. All are only united by way of the Cross. To further cement the fact that the entire law, including the Ten Commandments, was nailed to the Cross when Christ was, we read Colossians 2:13-14:

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us of all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”

Christ took the law out of the way because it was actually against us. Was the Law sinful or bad? No! This is not why the Lord abolished it. He did it because it could not save us or empower us to live a life of righteousness, it could only accuse us of sin and condemn us to death. (Romans 7:7-25) By fulfilling and removing the law out of the way, Jesus was actually doing us a big favor because when God declared all men “guilty” for falling short of his righteous standards according to the law, this actually paved the way for God to release his divine grace to us.

Removal of Condemnation through Jesus Christ

When Christ abolished the law and its curse through the Cross, he also removed the condemnation that the law placed upon men when they failed to keep it. The apostle Paul wrote about this powerful truth in the book of Romans:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”
(Romans 8:1-4)

Man could not keep the law by his own human might or power therefore it had no power to make men holy and righteous. What was God's solution to this problem? Condemn the sin instead of condemning mankind. God accomplished this by sending his Son in the likeness of sinful man to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law perfectly for all men and then remove it out of the way entirely. By completely removing the condemnation, this literally delivers believers from the bondage of having a sin conscious and sets them free to think right and do right with the help of the Holy Spirit.

I feel that it is imperative to say this: If those who are living under the condemnation of the legalism of the law today could truly understand what Christ has done through the atonement, it would set them free from the chains of not only legalism but recurring sin as well. It is especially those that live under the legalism of the law that struggle with the vicious cycle of sin and the condemnation of the heart that comes with it because they are trying to obey God in the power of their own flesh. It is

only when one comes to the realization that they aren't able to keep the law and stop trying, that they can truly begin to look to God and receive his mercy and grace.

We are Sanctified and Made Holy through the Body of Jesus

God has called us to live a holy life. His word says:

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (I Peter 1:15-16)

How is it possible for us to live a holy life? Some believers think that this is an absolute impossibility. With man it is but with God, all things are possible. If we understand that Jesus made it possible for us through the atonement to actually live a holy life, then we will believe that it is possible. When we understand that it is not by our [human] power or might but by Christ in us, then we will believe that it is possible to live holy by the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit who now lives on the inside of us. (Zechariah 4:6, Galatians 2:20) Jesus made this possible for us through his body. Concerning going to the Cross Jesus said to the Father:

“Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy (sanctified) through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus once for all.” (Hebrews 10:10 NIV)

Because Jesus is holy, we are now holy. This was done through the life and body of Christ. He lived a holy, spotless, sinless life our behalf because we were unable to do so because of our sinful flesh. (Romans 8) He subjected his entire spirit, soul and body to God's righteousness and holiness so that we too could be made holy. Again, there is a divine exchange that took place on the cross. The Lord took our unholy lives and made us holy through his.

Receive the reality that the Lord has already made us holy through the sacrifice of his body. You can live a holy life in Christ by the power of the Spirit. Notice I did not say a perfect life, I said a holy life. Living holy does not mean that we will never sin; it means that we are living a life of sanctification, that is, we have now been set apart from the world by God to live for him.

We are healed by His Stripes

The Lord also paid the price in his body so that we might receive healing in our spirits, souls and bodies. As was mentioned earlier in this teaching, Jesus suffered in his spirit, soul and body during the atonement so that we could have complete redemption. Some believers think of only being redeemed at the Second Advent but the word redeemed means: *to buy, purchase, liberate, free and deliver*. According to the word of God those of us who believe have already been redeemed by Christ. The Bible tells us that *we have already been freed* from the dominion of sin, the law, the devil, all manner of sicknesses and diseases through the sacrifice of Christ. If we bear in mind that ***healing is not something that God is going to do for us, but something that has already been done*** it makes it easier for us to receive. (I Peter 2:24)

This powerful truth is good news for those who are lost in sin and in need of salvation and a new spirit. This is good news for those who need their souls delivered from the wounds of sin, emotional pain and rejection. This is good news for those that need healing for various sickness and diseases in their physical bodies and mental illnesses of the mind. The Lord has already purchased us with his very own blood and he takes care of those who are his own! He is our Redeemer, Deliverer and our Healer. When the Lord walked the earth he healed ALL that were sick and oppressed of the

devil and this was *before* the Cross. (Luke 6:17-19) How much more do you believe that he wants us to be healed *after* the Cross in light of all the suffering that he had to endure?

God has made it plain in his word: he wants us well, spirit, soul and body. Through the atonement of Christ we have been redeemed from all our sicknesses and diseases. David spoke of this long before the Cross.

Praise the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases...” (Psalm 103:2-3)

Not only has the Lord forgiven us of all our sins (we’ll write more about this later) but he has also given us the benefit of being healed of all of our sicknesses and diseases. Healing is a divine benefit that the Lord has given us through the atonement. Jesus made this possible by taking the stripes (or wounds) upon his back and being beaten before he went to the cross. Isaiah prophesied of the Lord’s crucifixion:

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

The apostle Peter preached concerning the crucifixion of Christ:

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” (I Peter 2:24)

Please note in these scriptures that Isaiah was looking forward to the time of the Cross but that the Apostle Peter was looking back at the finished work of the cross. Isaiah prophesied of a time when people would be healed. He said, **“By his wounds we are healed.”** Peter however was able to declare the finished work of the Cross because he wrote, **“By his wounds you have been healed.”** Halleluia! Since the Lord already paid the price for our healing by going to the Cross, it is already ours in the name of Jesus! Just as easily as we received salvation by faith, so we can also receive our healing by faith.

He was Pierced for our Transgressions and Crushed for our Iniquities

Isaiah chapter 53 gives a very graphic depiction of the crucifixion of Christ. Another way that Jesus gave his body for us was by being wounded for our transgressions. The King James Version uses the word “wounded” and the NIV Translation uses the word “pierced”. Not only did the Lord endure a brutal beating before he went to Calvary’s hill and was nailed to the cross, but after he was on the cross he was pierced in the side with a spear. As a result of this wound, blood and water poured out of his side. In this series we will be covering the substance of the blood of Christ as well.

Also we learn in this chapter that the Lord was crushed for our iniquities. The King James Version uses a milder word which is “bruised” but the NIV Translations again uses much stronger language with the word “crushed”. In this passage we find a distinction between transgressions and iniquities. What is the difference? Well, sin is identified in the Bible as “the transgression of God’s law”. Sin is when one “trespasses” against God or another person. The word iniquity however goes deeper than a sin that one might commit against another only one time. Those that commit iniquities are people that have continuous, non-stop sin in their lives that is rooted in *wickedness*. However, those who come to Christ by faith can be forgiven of their wicked deeds because he paid the price for this through the atonement as well. No one can ever say that they have sinned too much or been too wicked to ever be saved by the grace of God.

Although this may not be all that has been recorded about what Jesus has done for us in his body through the atonement, we can now begin to get a broader insight and understanding of the many things that he suffered for on our behalf. When we learn of the reality of what he has actually done for us, then we will be able to receive more easily by faith those things that he has provided for us. Now when we take the bread during the Lord's Supper, we will be able to understand more of the substance behind the words of Jesus when he said, "**This is my body which is given for you.**"

Go To Part III