

LWMORG

Holy Communion – The Oath Called The Sacrament!

by Minister R. Thomas Lambur

As Christians, we have our total identity given us through this memorial Feast. Jesus initiated Holy Communion and we have avoided calling it a *sacrament* just because of the misunderstanding of this word. By allowing ourselves to connect this word *sacrament* to Roman Catholics, we have missed its meaning. Yes, some believe that in taking the Communion they are receiving salvation. We have been very careful here to say that “*The blood of the Cross which saves us is the same blood at the Mercy Seat which keeps us saved;*” so, we point out that *the initiation* of salvation is not received in the taking of Communion. However, the Lord did Command that Christians to partake of the Holy Communion for the reasons of His keeping power.

When we refer to Communion as a *sacrament* we should not say that this term should be removed from the church. Historically speaking, the term originates in a word that describes *the pledge* taken by soldiers enlisting in the imperial army of Rome. These soldiers took *an oath of absolute devotion* to the emperor. They called that oath a *sacrament*. Since the Romans regarded the emperor as deity, their pledge to him was regarded as holy. The sacrament was a holy pledge of endless devotion to the emperor of Rome. For this reason, we can use the word *sacrament* (which means pledge or oath) to describe Communion as long as we understand what the word means. Although this word isn't found in the N.T., it does have its expressed meaning regarding *an oath of absolute devotion* which can be applied to the taking of the Holy Communion!

Early Christians accepted Communion as *an oath sealed by the blood of Christ*. The promise within the New Covenant it represents is *a promise of everlasting devotion*. Jesus gave Himself for us. Shouldn't we give all of ourselves to Him? He allowed His body to be broken and His blood to be spilled. Because of His sacrificial blood at the Cross we can *receive eternal life*... because of His blood poured out upon the Heavenly Mercy Seat we can be *kept unto eternal life!* Because of what He has done for us God calls us *to enter into a sacrament, a holy pledge* of our devotion to Jesus Christ.

Ps 118:27 God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.

We voluntarily allow Him to bind us to the His altar with this oath in Communion!

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

We are to become living sacrifices to Him. We are to give up the things we desire most if He requires them. We are to place ourselves at His disposal. We are to completely surrender our wills to His will. We are to allow ourselves to be bound and sacrificed on His alter. Communion is a symbol of this oath, this true pledge of our devotion, in taking the Holy Communion.

Shall we now take up the elements of the Holy Communion with this sacrament (our oath to Him coming from our heart spoken from our lips) ... making Him know how completely and entirely we are given over to Him.

This is, in fact, *the chastening* we show unto the Lord that *as a virgin engaged, set aside unto her husband*, so we would show Him our love and pure devotion.

Jas 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

The Holy Spirit is jealous over this area of our devotion to Christ.

2Corin. 11:2-3 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity (of your devotion) that is in (toward) Christ.

Also, the *Early Christians* looked to “*The Day Of Redemption*,” and showing their devotion, understood that through the Holy Communion they could *attend to* those areas *that grieved the Holy Spirit* and could thereby *be delivered from the bondage of their sins* through forgiveness, remission, and the power of His Grace, preserving this *seal*, making them continually *eternally secure*.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

We should attend to what is needful and revealed to us by the conviction of the Holy Spirit as we *examine ourselves* before the taking of His Holy Communion.

The Bride Is Getting Ready!

End

Discussion & Prayer Time:

Living Waters Ministries by Minister R. Thomas Lambur 2009

