

Lords Supper Talk – “Mindless Mission”

October 16, 2022

Recently here in little ole’ Sweet Home I observed a little robot running the streets. I only caught a quick glimpse of it as it navigated through the crosswalk on 13th and Long Street. It had a flag and multiple flashing lights. I never chased it down, and I honestly don’t know exactly what it is doing, someone mentioned some sort of advertising. Nonetheless, it was on a mission. We have several robots where I work, called laser guided vehicles. These unmanned vehicles are only as smart the information that is programmed into them. They are programmed to complete missions. One could argue that they don’t “think” about their mission, they just do as they are told, over and over.

There are several religious groups that don’t partake of the Lords Supper frequently, because they say it can become mindless or meaningless if it is too routine. I can’t say as I totally disagree with them, unless we are reminded purposely, and focus purposely on the meaning and value of partaking every first day of the week. The church in Corinth had fallen under rebuke by Paul for their approach to the Lords Supper. This is a familiar passage, but it is an excellent reminder of our focus during this time of communion.

Let’s read it together:

1 Corinthians 11:17-30

¹⁷ But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together ^[a]as a church, I hear that ^[b]divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become ^[c]evident among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper, ²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

The Lord’s Supper

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He

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broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this **in remembrance** of Me.”²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim** the Lord’s death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.²⁸ But a man must **examine** himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number ^(d)sleep.

It is really hard to approach this time of communion as mindless and meaningless if these words of Paul are read and internalized.

I have heard my dad teach that this time is a:

- Commemoration – a remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ
- Proclamation – a proclamation that we recognize the sacrifice of Jesus death is real, and the only way that we can be at peace with God, by having our sins forgiven
- Examination – we reflect on our lives, with all openness and humility, confessing our sins and trusting in God’s forgiveness.

Let us partake today with all sincerity of minds and focus on Jesus Christ.