

## THE CUP

“I have been crucified with Christ;  
it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;  
and the life which I now live in the flesh  
I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Gal 2:20



Throughout the Bible, we read about God reserving the cup of wrath to those who reject Him. Additionally, Jesus used the metaphor “drinking the cup” in referring to His upcoming death on the cross. However, David used the expression as a blessing from God this way: “O LORD, *You are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.” (Ps 16:5)

All of mankind have been, and will ever be subject to either drink the cup of God’s blessings through obedience, or the dreadful cup of His judgments to those who reject Him. And the one and only way to avoid His judgments are contained in one simple solution, embracing the cross of Christ in our lives. That’s what Jesus explicitly said in Mat. 16:24, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

In essence, in choosing God’s cup of blessings, we must also realize that it implies we also will have trials in this life, the reason Jesus said to take up our cross daily. While we may at times receive blessings in this life, the true and lasting blessings are reserved for the eternal life in His presence. That’s how we can say, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” Have we embraced the cup of Christ?

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“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Rom 8:18



Jesus taught us in no uncertain terms that if we confess and follow Him as Lord and Savior, we will have trouble. In John 16:33, He is quoted, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” In other words, just as our salvation is in Christ, our peace is found in trusting Him also.

Why tribulation, some might ask? In Luke 10, Jesus said that if they rejected Him to the point of crucifying the Son of God, they will reject us as well. Because, when we embrace, surrender and serve Christ, then Christ lives in us, our testimony aggravates the enemy, and we can expect to be rejected on account of Christ.

As the world goes on, we can clearly see that if we follow Christ and reject the sinful attitudes that they want to impose on us, it results in rejection, and even legal and financial pressures imposed for refusing to associate with sin and standing by God’s Word. While at times our trials seem difficult and overwhelming, let’s remember Jesus’ prayer to the father: “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.” (Mat 26:39) Let’s trust the Rock of our Salvation!

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“O LORD, You are the portion  
of my inheritance and my cup;  
You maintain my lot.”

Psalm 16:5



How could we define and what is the extent of the cup of blessings that God reserves for those who surrender their lives to Christ? Did Christ promise that in this life, we would see blessings if we do? We all know that humanity has inherited the judgment of God through the fall of Adam and Eve, and as a result, we have all been stained by sin. God however offers forgiveness through the sacrifice of Christ, who took God's cup of judgment in our stead, so we would receive His cup of blessings, both in this life, and more importantly for eternity. Does that mean we will never encounter trials in this life? Obviously, we know the contrary because the world despises God and Christ, and as a result, despises those who live to follow Christ.

So, where does the cup of blessings fit into this? David in Psalm 116:13 said, "I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD." The cup of salvation provides our inheritance for the eternal life to come. What about this life? Obviously, knowing what awaits us, the cup of trials of this world pales in comparison to God's eternal blessings to come, and provides us now with what the world lacks completely: faith, hope, peace and love. Isn't that our portion, right now?

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“For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup,  
and the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and  
He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the  
wicked of the earth drain and drink down.”

Psalm 75:8



In this life, people in general live for the moment. Their lives are focused on entertainment, the flesh, to acquire money, fame, power, and they even try to impose their lifestyles on all. It is a rat race to get as much out of this life as they can, without any regards for God or anyone else; in essence, it is the cult of self.

What could we say these people lack completely? Obviously, they fail to see the big picture of God's creation and purpose for humanity. They live for the moment, for this life only, and therefore lack the wisdom that God gives to those who seek Him truly and honestly. In their spiritual darkness, they fail to see the big picture found in the revelation of Christ as the light of the world, and the key to eternal life with God. As a result, God has reserved for them a cup of judgment, of darkness, that awaits them at the end of this life.

Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 said, "For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape." God's cup of judgment reserved for those who reject Christ is not an empty promise. Contrary to what the world does, God stands on His promises and never comes back on His Word.

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“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord  
and the cup of demons;  
you cannot partake of the Lord’s table  
and of the table of demons.”

1 Cor. 10:21



Jesus, in Matthew 23 made a long discourse to condemn the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. In verse 25 He said: “For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.” In other words, the most insulting attitude to have with God and Christ is to pretend and feign Christianity on the outside, and live with sin in our hearts. It’s one thing to affirm we believe in Christ, it’s another one to live by His Word.

Paul brought a serious warning in Colossians 3:5-6, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.”

Peter said, “For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1Peter 4:17) He also said, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.” (2Peter 3:10)

In essence, do we live a dedicated Christian life like the 5 wise virgins of Jesus’ parable, or are we like the 5 foolish ones? Which cup will we drink from when God draws the line for our life on this earth?

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