

Pr Mark Turner: The Two Cups (14/12/19)

Matthew 26:26-28 - Cup 1: The blood of the covenant, which is shed for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:39-42 - Cup 2: Did the cup represent the physical suffering of Jesus?

Ignatius of Antioch pled for the privilege of Martyrdom.

Polycarp was grateful that he could have the honour of suffering for Christ.

Why then was Jesus recoiling from this cup? Was He less brave than the martyrs? Or was it a different cup?

Psalm 75:8 - "Intended for the wicked."

Job 21:20 - "God's wrath."

Ezekiel 23:32-34 - "The cup of horror and desolation."

Jeremiah 25:15 - "Wine cup of fury."

Revelation 14:9,10 - "The wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation."

This was the cup that confronted Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.

"He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. The gulf was so broad, so black, so deep, that His spirit shuddered before it. This agony He must not exert His divine power to escape. As man He must suffer the consequences of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression." Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages* pg 686

John Flavel - The Father's Bargain

Father: My son, here is a company of poor miserable souls, that have utterly undone themselves, and now lie open to my justice! Justice demands satisfaction for them, or will satisfy itself in the eternal ruin of them: What shall be done for these souls?

Son: O my Father, such is my love to, and pity for them, that rather than they shall perish eternally, I will be responsible for them as their Surety; bring in all thy bills, that I may see what they owe thee; Lord, bring them all in, that there may be no after-reckonings with them; at my hand shalt thou require it. I will rather choose to suffer thy wrath than they should suffer it: upon me, my Father, upon me be all their debt.

Father: But, my Son, if thou undertake for them, thou must reckon to pay the last mite, expect no abatements; if I spare them, I will not spare thee.

Son: Content, Father, let it be so; charge it all upon me, I am able to discharge it: and though it prove a kind of undoing to me, though it impoverish all my riches, empty all my treasures, (for so indeed it did, 2 Cor. 8: 9. "Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor") yet I am content to undertake it.

Flavel: Blush, ungrateful believers, O let shame cover your faces; judge in yourselves now, has Christ deserved that you should stand with him for trifles, that you should shrink at a few petty difficulties, and complain, this is hard, and that is harsh? O if you knew the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in this his wonderful condescension for you, you could not do it.

"The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour. He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonized soul. The awful moment had come--that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup

apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty? The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages* pg 690

"Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin. His prayer now breathes only submission: "If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages* pg 690-693

2 Corinthians 5:21 - "Made Him to be sin for us."

Galatians 3:13 - "Became a curse for us."

Christ takes upon Himself the curse, that He may offer in its place, the blessing He deserves.

1 Corinthians 10:16 - "The cup of blessing."

As we partake of the cup of blessing, let us recognise the source of this blessing, and honour Him who actually deserves this blessing!