



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

“Getting into the Memory of Jesus”

November 2019

It’s November, the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving here in the U.S.A. Mostly today, people are thinking about food, football, and Black Friday, the day when the official shopping season for Christmas begins.

Back in 1989 I wrote *Inner Visions*, a collection of poetry. One of those poems is a little poem entitled “Thanking.”

Thanking is thinking
It starts with a thought
Of others, of God, of life.

I am
I think,
Thoughtful to thank.

At Thanksgiving we are to think about all the things for which we are thankful. One way is to list 20 things about each person in your family and/or extended family for which you are thankful. It’s a nice way of saying you think about them and appreciate having them in your life. This includes those “irregular” people as well. But the big idea is getting into the memory of Jesus Christ in our lives.

It may be the time of Thanksgiving and soon the time to celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ (John 1), but in doing so we must remember that Jesus was sent by

the Father to save a people who would be redeemed, reconciled to their Creator, forgiven of their sin, delivered from the wrath of God, and set free from the sway of the devil. As many describe it, He was born to live the life God required, to die to pay the penalty for sin, and to be raised from the dead in the power of an endless life.

Over in 1 Corinthians 11:24, the Comprehensive Version of Rev. Jim Craig, a NT Greek scholar, we have:

And after He had given thanks, He broke (referring only of bread in the NT; often of a ceremonial or religious act at the beginning of a meal) and He said: this thing of Me is the body (soma), namely, the in-behalf-of-you body; this thing you are to be doing in order to get into the memory of Me. 1 Corinthians 11:24

As Jesus gave thanks at the Passover meal, just prior to His crucifixion, He was making a change, to a New Covenant, a superior one. As the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (and not Levite), He had this right. Hebrews tells us that where there is a change in the Priesthood, there is a change in the law. Christ is our Passover, our Deliverer, our Savior, the One who brings us out of darkness into His marvelous light. So He gave instruction.

What was Jesus thinking as He gave thanks at that Passover meal? He was about to be taken, turned over to both religious and civil authorities, interrogated and tried, and go outside the city gates of Jerusalem to be crucified. He knew it. He had foretold it. On the cross He referenced Psalm 22 to clue people in on what was happening: Christ, the Messiah, would die for the sins of those given to Him by His Father, who sent Him to save a people. He would give His body as a once-for-all-time sacrifice for sin, bearing sin, bearing the curse, bearing the wrath of the Living God against all that is contrary to His nature and ways, bearing the glory, suffering in the place of a people. He would glorify His Father in this obedience even to death on the cross, in all humility. He would satisfy divine justice and close the door to the Devil legally and judicially, enabling forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with the Father, redemption, propitiation, and the destruction of the works of darkness.

Jesus was thinking about the joy set before Him. (Hebrews 12) His heart was to glorify His Father. He reveals that heart in John 17. The glory is the oneness and the purpose was that the love would be in them.

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He ^[a] should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together ^[b] with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:1-5 NKJV

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who ^[1]will believe in Me through their word;
²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in
Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have
given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may
be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved
them as You have loved Me. John 17:20-23 NKJV

So as Jesus broke the bread, He blessed it. This bread symbolizes His body given—the on-behalf-of-you body. Jesus had no personal sin. He is a Divine Person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body. The Person of Christ, with two distinct natures, is fully God and fully man (human). Those two natures are in a perfect union in one Person.

It is immeasurably sweet, and awe-inspiring, to know that Jesus’s two natures are perfectly united in his one person. Jesus is not divided. He is not two people. He is one person. As the Chalcedonian Creed states, his two natures are without confusion, without change, without division, and without separation. Jesus is one. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-hypostatic-union>

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (the elect). Romans 5:8 This is what we are supposed to think about and be thankful for as the bread is broken. We do this to get into the memory of Jesus.

Likewise, after eating the bread, Jesus said, This cup is the New Covenant in My Blood; this do, as often as, whenever you drink [it], in remembrance of Me. 1 Corinthians 11:25.

True believers are to get into the memory of Jesus whenever we drink the fruit of the vine in communion. It is to remind us of the New Covenant in Christ’s Blood, the Cup. As often as we may eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord until that He should come. 1 Corinthians 11:26.

Let’s think about Jesus, not only while receiving communion as the Body of Christ, but also every day, with thankfulness to the Father for sending the Son, with thankfulness to Jesus for His willing and whole-hearted obedience and the salvation of our souls, and for the sending of the Holy Spirit who applies to us what Jesus has accomplished in our behalf.

Paul, often called the Apostle of Joy, wrote this in Philippians while in prison there:

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8 NKJV

Get into the memory of Jesus. Consider Him. Meditate on who He is; on what He has done. Think. Fix your eyes, focus on Jesus, His faith and what enabled Him to endure. And rejoice in the joy that He loves you.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Dr. Mary Craig

Mary Craig Ministries

... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto [to or into the faith of] Jesus, the ^[a]author and ^[b]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1b, 2 NKJV

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. Hebrews 1:3 NKJV

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