

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, April 28, 2024

1. Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-34
2. Over the centuries there has been a debate over whether the Lord's Table is a welcoming or an unwelcoming place. Which do you think it is and why?
3. What does it mean to eat of the bread and drink of the cup (i.e. partake of the Lord's Supper) in an unworthy manner?
4. What does it mean to discern the body? What are we discerning in the Lord's Supper?
5. How should parents prepare their children to partake of the Lord's Supper? Pretend you are talking with an eight year old. What would you say to him or her?
6. Paul tells us to "examine" ourselves before coming to the Table. What does this mean and how do we do this? What are we examining ourselves for?
7. Why are these stern warnings given to us about partaking of the Lord's Supper? Think of the analogy of an ocean safety course.
8. In v.32 Paul speaks of God disciplining us so that we are not condemned with the world. What is the discipline of the Lord, and what does this tell you about God's discipline?
9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?
10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in Heaven, you are a God who is full of grace and mercy; a God who remains faithful even when we are faithless. We thank you this morning for our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is beautiful and perfect in every way. From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. And yet for as wonderful as He is we confess we are prone to take our eyes off of Him and place them on ourselves in our day to day lives.

We confess how easily we are entangled with all kinds of sins, whether in word, in thought, or in deed. We sin by omission, failing to do what you command, and we sin by commission, doing what you forbid us to do. These sins are no small thing, but they bring shame to you and pain to us and to those whom we love. Moreover, we weigh ourselves down with time consuming activities and distractions, busying ourselves with things that don't profit us, but instead hinder us in the life of faith and make us less fruitful and effective for your kingdom. Father, forgive us, cleanse us, and sanctify us, for our heart's desire is to be free from these weights and sins so as to run with endurance the race that is set before us. Please give us this grace for the glory of your name and the name of your Son Jesus, who has been given the name above all names; the only name given among men by which we may be saved. It is in His name, the mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

WLC: 125

Q. 125. Why are superiors styled father and mother?

A. Superiors are styled father and mother, both to teach them in all duties towards their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents.

Eph. 6:4; 2 Cor. 12:14; 1 Thess. 2:7-8, 11; Num. 11:11-12; 1 Cor. 4:14-16; 2 Kings 5:13.

OT Reading: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! ² Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.