

What We Do Know: A Communion Meditation

1. Recent question:
 - a. How can we perceive God as sending a sweet, innocent newborn baby to hell?
 - b. How does predestination work in real life?
2. Communion helps us reflect on the biblical response to this question by reminding us of some things that we do know.
 - a. About human nature, sin, and guilt
 - i. We do know that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - ii. We do know that the human heart is inclined toward evil continually
 - iii. We do know that the wages of sin is death
 - iv. We do know that that little baby, left without any divine intervention, is a sinner who will sin and suffer the eternal consequences of guilt incurred by a nature perpetually inclined to resist God
 - b. About the character and nature and Person of God
 - i. **Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV) ⁶ *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”***
 - ii. **2 Chronicles 30:9 (ESV) *For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.***
 - iii. **Jonah 4:2 (ESV) *And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.***
 - c. About the application of God’s character to the human condition
 - i. Redemption in Eternity
 - (1) **Ephesians 1:4-8 (ESV) ⁴ *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight***
 - ii. Redemption in Time
 - (1) **John 3:16 (ESV) *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***
 - (2) **Romans 5:8 (ESV) *but God shows his love for us in that while***

we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- iii. Redemption in Us
 - (1) **Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)** ⁹ *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*
 - (2) **Acts 2:21 (ESV)** *And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*
- d. Disciples are sent to make disciples because disciples can still be made
 - i. **Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
 - (1) Not everyone will believe but some will
 - (2) God has commanded this means for gathering His chosen to Himself
 - ii. Any who believe will be received
 - (1) **John 6:37 (ESV)** *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*
- 3. The Lord's Supper reminds us that
 - a. every human being is a sinner bound for hell
 - b. God in His mercy addresses our predicament by intervening with and through Christ
 - c. Grace and mercy are available to those who will receive it
 - i. That right now, sins can be forgiven, guilt erased, condemnation removed
 - ii. That right this moment you can be restored to a right relationship with God and begin a new life in Christ that leads to heaven and eternal glory rather than death and eternal hell.
- 4. Don't just take the cup, take the Christ. Don't just take the bread, take the Bread of life.
 - a. We have one, singular hope.
 - i. Our hope is not in any merit or action on our part.
 - ii. Our hope is entirely in Christ who lived and died for us.
 - b. Take the faith God gives you and put it in Christ where it belongs.