



# Communion

## The Pathway to Life

(edited transcript)

Tim Maurice

26 May 2019

### Contents

We are sons of God by His love.....	1
Lay aside our 'riches' and enter.....	2
Be yoked to Christ.....	2
God's provision in communion.....	2

---

Jesus Christ, the firstborn Son of God, expresses Himself and is seen on earth in His body, which Scripture calls 'the church of the firstborn' (Hebrews 12:23). An integral part of the life of Christ's body, the church, is every member's participation in His communion table by partaking of His body and His blood. Why? Because in offering Himself completely to God the Father, Jesus opened a new and living way for us to participate in His life; a way in which we not only believe in Him and His sacrifice for us but we also *join* Him in the living activity of His offering so that we manifest the life of God.

God wants each one of us to manifest His life. Before we existed, He foresaw and lovingly named every person who would ever be. But without Christ, we spend our lives defining and developing a name for ourselves - a name that is not the name He gave us. *With* Christ, we can choose to live according to the name God carefully crafted for us and so become the son<sup>1</sup> He fashioned us to be. The question is, will we choose and live His way for us, or will we go our own way?

I don't think many of us determine to fight to the death an unwinnable battle against God. Wouldn't we rather find peace and life *in* God, and in His way for us?

### We are sons of God by His love

God the Father is affirming today that we *are* His sons<sup>1</sup>. The apostle John reminded us of this truth:

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."* (1 John 3:1)

We so very easily forget this! Of course, none of us is yet a perfect son of God. Nevertheless, we *are* sons of God, and He has a pathway for each of us. He has an answer to every individual matter in our lives, and grace for each one of us today and every day. God is calling to you today, and as you hear His voice, don't harden your heart and switch off, thinking to yourself that you're already a believer and don't need to hear this (Hebrews 3:15)! *Don't* harden your heart! God is speaking to you.

I think a lot of people hearing or reading this today are afraid. We *are* afraid, and we may not even know what we are afraid of. But God knows, so we can stop trying to work out our own anxieties as if that will answer them. No matter how hard we try, no matter how

---

<sup>1</sup> 'son' describes the those who are God's sons and daughters, His male and female children.

cleverly we try to outthink ourselves, we really *can't* shut off our own anxieties. We need the Lord to answer the matter, and He wants to do so. The answer is as simple for us as receiving the love of God, for it is His perfect love that casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

### Lay aside our 'riches' and enter

The Lord Jesus Christ is bringing this Scripture to us today:

*"I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."* (Matthew 19:24)

Being a 'rich man' doesn't necessarily mean having financial wealth. We can think we're rich by any number of measures, but they will hinder and may completely prevent our fellowship with God. To enter the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings we need to lay aside *whatever* else we think makes us rich. Perhaps we've hung onto beliefs or practices that we think identify us or make us feel better or less insecure. But God has not named you 'Insecure', or 'Feel bad'. He has given you *His* faith, and His faith will answer. He will not be drawn from His faith onto the ground of your insecurities, no matter how many times you ask Him to do so, so stop asking Him! Stop processing your life through your own mental machinery, which will not resolve anything but will only make matters worse, and come to Him as one who is not rich but poor.

By whatever measure you may have thought yourself rich, God is asking you today to let that go, for it is nothing. The Lord sees you as you are, not as you see yourself or as you think or would like other people to see you. He sees you as you are, and He *loves* you as you are! Come to Him as you are and be joined and yoked to Christ, for through Him you will enter the Kingdom of Heaven and find rest for your soul.

Will you come now and enter His rest?

### Be yoked to Christ

Will you be yoked to Him again, and leave behind all you thought made, or would make you, rich, important, or clever? Will you disregard the credentials you've relied on? The length of time you've been or haven't been a Christian? Your reputation? Your experiences, achievements and aspirations? The security sticks you lean on? Let God speak to you about who you really are. Your self-definition will only get in the way, clouding the issues of life.

There is no faith in self-definition. But God, who is love, wants to give us His faith today - faith that works by love (Galatians 5:6; 1 John 4:8).

### God's provision in communion

Jesus gave us the communion as the full provision of life for us. At His communion table, we need to eat the bread, participating in the fellowship of His body, *and* we need to drink the cup, participating in the fellowship of His sufferings. The disciple Judas took the bread of the communion but did not drink the cup. Christ could be sacrificed, but Judas was not going to join the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. Instead, he went another way, and joined himself to another fellowship altogether (John 13:21-30).

Jesus assured His disciples that they *would* drink the cup that He would drink (Mark 10:39), and we also need to drink that cup. One way or another in life, each one of us will drink something. We will either be connected to Christ and His capacity through our participation in His cup, or we will not. *Every* person, whether they know it or not, is on one side of the cross of Christ or the other. They are either dying and living *with* Christ, or they are dying without Him. There is not a multitude of

roads that people can take through life - there are only two: the road with Christ in His dying and living, or the road of dying without Christ.

Today, God is speaking to us as His sons whom He has named. Thank the Lord that by His great love He has called us His children, and we *are* His children (1 John 3:1). What manner of love makes this even possible! What extraordinary love God has provided for us, pouring His life out for us so that we can share His life; so that we can be *born* of His life and become His sons, finding life in Jesus His Son as we eat and drink the communion with Him.

Can we heed the Lord's admonition to us today to lay aside the things we think make us rich? The things we rely on and yearn for in our vain attempts to be valid? If we will put these off, we will be able to pass through the 'eye of the needle', the small and low entry point to the place and life the Lord has prepared for us and is leading us into? When He puts us in situations that are difficult or seem impossible, let's follow Him, not backing out of the narrow way in which He is constraining us but pressing forward to pass through the small door to which He is leading us. We may feel completely unable; we may have to leave everything behind including our treasures. But as we give ourselves into the Lord's hand, we will hear His affirmation that this is indeed the way, and when we come in, we will inherit all that God has promised to those who love Him.

God *wants* us to inherit with Christ! The way of our inheritance with Him is through our suffering with Him.

*"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him." (Romans 8:16-17)*

As we eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord's communion, we are saying, in simple faith, 'Yes, Lord, I am joining You!'. We are participating with Him, leaving behind the things we think define us and offering ourselves to the Lord to be redefined by Him to His name for us.

This is our faith today as in Jesus' name we eat and drink the communion with great thanksgiving to Him in our hearts.

---