

THE CUP

The covenant that is most often enjoyed and enjoined by a Member of the Church is the that of the Sacrament. Each week members have an opportunity to renew the covenants made at baptism. In the act of partaking the sacrament the participant promises or covenants to ‘always remember Him, keep His commandments, and take upon themselves His Name’. In that first sacrament in the Upper Room, Christ said, ‘eat and drink in remembrance of my body and blood’.

The most difficult aspect of the Sacrament Covenant, in my opinion, is to “always remember Him”. This covenantal ordinance and prayer should not mean; just on Sunday, as we pray or when we see a picture of Christ. The word “*always*” does not mean sometime or often, not even most of the time. Having been obedient to the law of sacrifice, the first commandment given to Adam, when taught by the angel what the sacrifice represented, was commanded that ‘*he should do all things in the name of the Son forevermore*’. This first important commandment given to the first man and woman has not been rescinded or replaced, and the first step in obedience to that commandment one must “always remember Him”.

Having been to Israel many times I have acquired a year supply of fuel in Olive Wood carvings. However, each time I return from Jerusalem, I do so with what I consider a most important souvenir that carries a special meaning. It is a small piece of olive wood that helps me ‘always remember Him’ rather than something that reminds me of the trip. Insignificant in size yet gigantic in importance and paramount in meaning. This spiritual souvenir is the little olive wood cup that I have used for the sacrament, or a reminder of the blood of Christ, while in the Garden Tomb or the Garden of Gethsemane, that means the most to me.

Like every person, each cup looks the same in their basic shape, though similar in looks, no two can be exactly alike because of the tree, the grain of the wood, and the place within the tree from which it is made. Each cup has some type of flaw, seen or unseen, which may be manifested in the coloring, nots, or cracks. Like this small cup each person has their own weaknesses and flaws, imperfection should be expected because there is ‘none good’ but God and all are sinners and imperfect in character. Like the olive wood cup, each person is similar in looks, build and creation, However, similar to the snowflake no two will ever be exactly alike. It is impossible. Nonetheless, when these cups are used for the sacrament, the common element within each cup is the water, blessed and sanctified to those who partake of it, representing the atoning blood of the Savior. It is that blood and symbol that should bring all believers together as one body, with one heart and having one mind. That one mind should be in Jesus Christ and His Atonement and Resurrection. One mind to Love god and all Mankind. As Moroni states when concluding his record, it is only through that Atonement that all may become ‘perfected in Him’. Isaiah opens his book teaching that even though one’s sins might be as scarlet they might be white as snow, perfect and pure, as all must have their garments washed white in the Blood of the Lamb. The symbolic blood of the Savior should bring all believers together, ‘becoming one in Christ’. The ‘great drops of blood’ that stained the rocks in Gethsemane, has the power to bring about the bowels of mercy that will part the veil for the individual to enter the presence of God waxing strong in confidence and salvation.

In my home these cups are placed such that I cannot walk into or through any room that a cup is not seen. They sit on the book-shelf, the night-stand in the bedroom, they can be seen in the office and on the shelves of the library. There is one in the coat pocket of the suit worn each Sunday. ‘Oh, remember, remember’ is the cry Helaman. In my weakness and imperfection, I need a simple reminder.

Submitting one’s will to God’s will is just a beginning, exaltation is dependent upon a person’s will becoming the same as God’s will. To do this one must develop a character that cannot look upon sin without abhorrence, have no more disposition to do evil, and learn to love one another as Christ loves all. Each faithful member needs to be reminded, not just each week, but each and every day. “Always” has only one meaning. Always. The eventual goal is to need no reminder to ‘always remember’ hoping someday that the ability to “always remember Him” would be in the nature and character. However, in weaknesses and worldliness, all need the sacrament to covenant with God our obedience, to begin anew

and again be reminded to “Always Remember Him” taking upon ourselves ‘His Name’ and “Do all things in the Name of the Son Forevermore”. The little olive wood cup is the reminder that represents the blood of Christ as I seek to “always remember Him”.