



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Communion with God

“Since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14).

Communion is “a close relationship with someone or something - an act of **sharing**” - Merriam Webster. God took communion with man’s suffering in the birth, life, and death of Jesus; we have communion in Jesus’ suffering as His Church; and we long for our future communion with Christ in His glory.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, left the eternal realm of His Heavenly Father, and entered our sin stricken world as an infant. As God, Jesus had no sin inside Himself – no unrighteousness to add to the sins of the world; as man, He experienced the terrible effects of sin from a fallen, sinful world. In Isaiah, we see the Messiah was prophesied to be a man of sorrows and suffering—one who endures the full weight of sin in the world: cold, heat, hunger, thirst, sickness, injury, abuse, age, and death. In becoming a man, Jesus shared in the sufferings we experience because of sin. He bore the same burden we bear. As Emmanuel (God among us), God took communion with man’s fallen estate, though He Himself produced no sin to add to it, and He died in the place of all men for their sins: *“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:15-16). At the Last Supper, Jesus acknowledged the communion of God with men in the sharing of the bread and the cup—in remembrance

of God’s share in the sufferings of man in the flesh and blood of man and sacrificing that very flesh and blood for the Salvation of everyone who believes and obeys Jesus as Lord.

Communion is also our coming together as a Body of Believers to acknowledge our share in Christ’s sufferings while in the world. He came to partake in man’s sufferings, and as Believers, we take part in His sufferings, for as Jesus was without sin, so we have turned away from a life of sin to follow Him. So, in this life, we share in His betrayal, persecution, abandonment, and all manner of wrath that the world poured on Him in its hatred of Him. We endure the same for our communion with Him. As He suffered for our sakes, so we suffer for His name’s sake: *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you”* (1 Peter 4:12-14) *“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”* (Philippians 3:10-11).

A final aspect of our communion with Christ is to rejoice in our future share of His glory and power, through the promise of His resurrection and rapture, that in like manner we too will rise into the heavens when He comes again and we will be in communion with Him where He is for all eternity as *“heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him”* (Romans 8:13). May we be *“found in Him”* (Philippians 3:8-9). Amen.

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