

Fully Processed Bread and Wine – NOT Half-Baked Cakes

Genesis 14:18-20 - Abram and Melchizedek - 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said:

“Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

John 3:14-19 - 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should [a]not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 8:3-11 - 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

There is a major truth that everyone who truly wants to be a Christian must understand for their own eternity's sake.

Jesus did not come to condemn, but to give life.

Notice that the woman was caught in adultery, and Moses' law said she should be stoned.

- But it wasn't Moses they were dealing with.
- Jesus was on the scene now.

The law came by Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came by Jesus Christ.

- Moses' law was holy, and not at all wrong, though.
- It just could not give what Jesus could give.

Because Jesus told the woman he would not condemn her, after the scribes and Pharisees said she should be stoned according to Law, we understand that CONDEMNING her would be KILLING HER.

Condemning her would be giving her death.

- Jesus would not give death to her.
- And that is what we read in John 3.

Jesus came not to condemn the world but to rescue or save the world, and to give them life.

Even Paul said this: He synonymously used condemnation and death together when speaking about the nature of the Law of Moses.

2 Corinthians 3:7-9 - 7 The Law of Moses brought only the promise of death, even though it was carved on stones and given in a wonderful way. Still the Law made Moses' face shine so brightly the people of Israel could not look at it, even though it was a fading glory. **8** So won't the agreement the Spirit brings to us be even more wonderful? **9** If something that brings the death sentence is glorious, won't something that makes us acceptable to God be even more glorious?

In the story of Melchisedek, a priest of God, coming to Abram we see the same picture.

- Melchisedek speaks a message of Jesus.
- Always remember that every one of these bible stories are intended to tell you something about Jesus.

Melchisedek comes to Abram and brings bread and wine in his hands.

We must always recall that bread and wine will always tell a message about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Matthew 26:26-28 - Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper - 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

And the more I study it out, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus becomes more and more awesome to me.

You see, **the death of Jesus occurred one single time** and is intended by God **to stand as our own deaths.**

Death only came into this world due to sin.

- And **with this death comes a judgment day.**

Hebrews 9:27-28 - 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Melchisedek comes to Abram and gives bread and wine.

Think of how bread and wine are made, to understand the depths of it representing **Jesus broken body and shed blood.**

Bread goes back to a seed of wheat.

- **The Bible** calls it a **corn of wheat.**
- **This corn is planted into the ground** and **begins losing some qualities about itself as it is changed** to one day **provide us with the means to make bread.**

The Bible said there would be **a seed of the woman** that would **bruise the serpent's head.**

Jesus came to this world as a seed planted into the womb of Mary.

- And as a seed loses something, Jesus laid aside deity and divinity and made himself of no reputation and became as a servant.
- He humbled himself, all for the purpose so that He could die.

Philippians 2:6-8 - 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- That death was the whole desire of God. Why? We will see why.
- And the seed then springs from the earth and grows.

Luke 2:40 - And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Jesus grew until He became 30 years of age and began to minister to Israel.

- When the wheat is grown, it is cut down with a sickle, and the wheat DIES.
- Jesus entered the garden of Gethsemane and laid down His life in that night of decision to do the will of the FATHER.
- They led Him away, nailed Him to the cross and crucified Him.

They take the hewn wheat (which means to cut, shape, chop, with a tool like an axe or chisel) that oxen tread upon and is ground beneath the millstone into powder, or flour.

- Then the flour is baked in an oven.

Just like this, Jesus Christ had taken upon Himself all our wickedness and God's judgment fell upon Him just like fiery wrath.

- All that God said He would do with wickedness was done to Jesus.
- He bore all our wickedness on the cross as us.

Then the bread comes forth. This is the PROCESS of making bread.

- The same is with wine. Grapes are processed to be made into wine.
- The grapes are killed when they are plucked from the vine.
- They are put into vats or winepresses in which the grapes are crushed.

The Bible calls **God's wrath the winepress of God.**

- Grapes of wrath are ***symbols of people being crushed by God's judgment.***
- ***Christ's death and crucifixion was the judgment of God upon Christ who took our sins upon Himself.***

Our sins were taken upon Jesus by Himself, and when the wrath of God crushed Him in death, our sins were dealt with...

IF WE ACCEPTED THAT BY FAITH AND GAVE OUR LIVES TO SERVE HIM.

- We get ***baptized into His death*** to show our faith in this.
- ***Baptism is not*** done to please the church or the preacher.
- ***It's done before God in faith*** that you ***really believe you did indeed die in Christ*** like ***God says you did.***

Then the bread ***is taken and eaten,*** and the wine ***is taken and drank.***

Another angle is to look at the bread as Christ and that bread is ***BROKEN as Christ's body was broken in death,*** and the wine is ***POURED OUT as His blood was SHED in His death.***

The Bible calls this **COMMUNION.**

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 - 16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

COMMUNION means **PARTICIPATION.**

When we drink the communion of the wine/blood of Jesus Christ, ***we show participation in that experience*** of having shed blood.

When we eat the communion of the broken bread, it ***shows participation in the death of His body.***

We hold the bread out and are supposed to be thinking that this represents His death, and by putting it into my body by eating it, I am showing that I participated in that death He experienced.

It's not just Him that died. I died with Him. I AM WHAT I EAT.

- ***Since this broken bread represents Jesus' death, and I died with Him, then I AM WHAT I EAT.***
- ***I AM DEAD AND I THEREFORE EAT HIS DEATH.***
- ***I PARTICIPATED IN HIS DEATH. I AM WHAT I EAT.***

When Melchisedek gave Abram bread and wine, and Abram ate the bread and drank the wine, we see a symbolic picture of exactly what Jesus and true Christians are doing.

- **Jesus came to GIVE US LIFE.**

Melchisedek came to give Abram bread and wine.

- It's all *the same idea*.
- **Mankind is in a state of sin. Sin and death go together.**

The Bible talks about the law of sin and death.

- **Everyone who comes to Jesus has various sins.**
- **Every person has a different combination of sins. Forms of death.**
- **Sins are all forms of death. Sin when it is finished brings forth death.**

James 1:15 - Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

And *if someone only comes with LAW to a person with sin, all that will do is give condemnation* to that sinner.

The soul that sins shall die. That is law.

Jesus did not come to give condemnation.

- **He gave bread and wine. He came not with LAW. He came with LIFE.**

Jesus came with GRACE AND TRUTH. John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

If the soul that sins must die, then how could one not give condemnation if one is God? How could one give Life?

The only way Jesus could give LIFE instead of death to one who has forms of death filling their lives, is to HAVE A REMEDY FOR THEIR SINS.

- A REMEDY! What is the remedy for sins?
- BREAD AND WINE. It is death.

But did we not just say that Jesus came not to bring condemnation. Yes.

- He came to bring death, but not in the way Law would come to bring it.
- He brought life.
- *Doesn't this contradict the thought* that He brought death?
- Not in one, and only one, sense.
- He brought HIS DEATH. He bought YOUR LIFE.
- His death was in the form of BREAD AND WINE.
- In other words, the kind of death that BREAD AND WINE represent.

HE BROUGHT HIS OWN DEATH EXPERIENCE AND OFFERED IT TO US FOR US TO PARTICIPATE IN.

- He offered us the opportunity of putting His experience into our lives
- And making it our experience.

Be careful here.

- *He did not come to cause everyone to be processed* like wheat is processed to become bread, and grapes are processed to become wine.
- *He brought bread* that was already processed, and
- wine that was already processed and gave it.

Similarly, *preachers* cannot come to you and tell you that you have to be processed and suffer and go through fire to become bread.

- We're supposed to come W/bread already processed and tell you to *eat it*.
- The already-processed bread IS INSIDE YOU.
- In other words, you are instantly able to claim you died, were buried and resurrected when you put it inside you. This is the Gospel message.
- When you believe and get baptized, you immediately can claim that you died and were buried with Jesus Christ!

- ***The killing, the crucifying, the grinding*** beneath the oxen and millstone, and ***the fire of God's wrath upon you*** **ALREADY OCCURRED COMPLETELY.**
- God gives you **the Holy Spirit**, and **you are ALIVE!**

To have experienced Christ's death and burial is to experience ETERNAL LIFE THAT NEVER DIES.

After death and burial of Jesus, *came* ETERNAL LIFE.

Revelation 1:18 - I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- **He was already dead once.**
- **AND he is now alive forevermore!**
- **NEVER GOING TO DIE AGAIN.**

The Bible says **true preachers of the Gospel** are priests after the order of Melchisedek.

They will always give you **FULLY PROCESSED bread and wine.**

- They will preach to you that **Christ's death and burial and resurrection can be accounted as YOUR'S.**

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **ITS YOUR'S!**

- He went ***through the process*** long ago for us!
- You are considered **FULLY PROCESSED** if you **PUT THAT INSIDE YOU.**
- They give you **eternal LIFE.**

Putting it **inside you**, remember, is **identifying yourself with all of it.**

Believing that ITS YOU *when you consider all of Christ's experiences in dying.*

You're eating symbols of His death and burial.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT! It's complete and it's YOUR EXPERIENCE.

Preachers who come to **condemn you** are *putting you through something* that **Christ already took for you.**

It's like Moses **striking the rock twice.**

- Christ was **struck once** in death. And **we were stricken in Him.**
- So, we **already were struck.**
- For Moses to strike it again, ***is to show how preachers take people who are already crucified with Christ*** and tell them **they need to be processed** and **suffer a second time.**
- Jesus **did it already** for and in us. **It's done!**

Trying to get people to mimic what Jesus experienced in suffering for salvation is trying to strike the same rock twice.

- Those who **believed** in Christ are **already stricken in Christ.**

Condemning someone is bringing death in the form of *making them go through it themselves.*

WE BECOME CHRISTIANS AND THEN NEED TO BECOME HOLY AFTERWARDS. NO!

- We will become **more holy in behavior.**
- But you are **made HOLY** as soon as you put His experiences **in you** -- as soon as you put **the fully processed bread and wine IN YOU.**

You already have **the processing** under your belt when you accept His death as your death!

Half-baked cakes require more cooking and more fire and more processing.

We are not **half-baked cakes.**

We're fully processed because we took Jesus' processing of suffering and claimed it as our own!

**FULLY PROCESSED BREAD AND WINE
-- NOT HALF-BAKED CAKES**