

PathLights

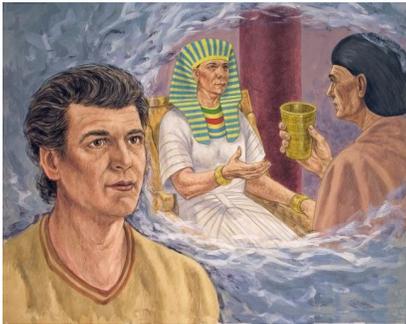
*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

November 20, 2016

He Forgot Him

by Frank Himmel

The Old Testament story of Joseph is a familiar one. Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery. Even in that circumstance he did well – until the wife of his Egyptian master falsely accused him, landing Joseph in prison. Soon he was joined there by two other notable offenders, Pharaoh's baker and his cupbearer.



The cupbearer and baker both had troubling dreams. Somehow, God communicated their interpretations to Joseph. The baker would die, but the cupbearer would

return to his position, both in three days. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him before Pharaoh and get him out of prison.

Events unfolded exactly as Joseph predicted. Three days later, on Pharaoh's birthday, the baker was hanged and the cupbearer restored. Sadly, the Bible then adds, "Yet the cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him" (Genesis 40:23). Surely he did not altogether forget the man who foretold his freedom. Joseph doubtless flashed through the cupbearer's mind from time to time. However, he

forgot him in practicality by not acting with regard to him. There is no indication of malice on his part, he just forgot him. Still, the effect on Joseph was the same: he was left languishing in prison.

Let's not repeat the cupbearer's mistake. Two applications come to mind.

First, let's not forget God. He has so richly blessed us, often in ways we do not even realize. Let's remember to "pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18a). An annual Thanksgiving holiday is great, but expressing gratitude needs to be a daily activity. Just as important, let's remember God in our conduct. How we live is the ultimate way in which we thank Him. What good does it do to remember God in prayer if we ignore Him in our attitudes, our priorities, our speech, our appearance, our behavior, and our relationships?

Second, let's not forget others. We still have "Josephs" among us, people who on occasion need our care and assistance. Remembering those who are sick, troubled, or otherwise in need requires more than thinking about them, mentioning them in announcements, or naming them in our prayers. Call them, go to them, encourage them, serve them. Do something that lets them know you are remembering them.

"Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:26). ■

“In His Own Way”

by Frank Himmel

One of the more popular “Lord’s Supper songs” among us is *The Breaking of Bread* by Ellis Crum. This song first appeared in Crum’s hymnal *Sacred Selections*, published in 1956. It uses the same tune as *Break Thou the Bread of Life*, an 1877 hymn by Mary Lathbury (tune by William Sherwin).

Ms. Lathbury’s hymn is about Jesus as the bread of life, taken from John 6. It is a figure that has no direct connection to the Lord’s Supper. *Break Thou the Bread of Life* prepares our hearts for listening to preaching, not eating the Lord’s Supper. Nevertheless, due to the prominence of the bread idea, some brethren regarded it as a “Lord’s Supper song.” I suspect that is one reason Crum wrote a more appropriate alternative using the same tune.

Verse 2 of *The Breaking of Bread* includes these words:

We now His death proclaim,
 In His own way,
 Until He comes again,
 We keep this day.

What an excellent acknowledgment: the Lord’s Supper is proclaiming the Lord’s death “in His own way,” the way He wants it done.

What if we had a memorial of Jesus’ death “in our own way”? What would that look like? Probably it would be much like the memorial of His birth that man has concocted: an annual affair, overflowing with elaborate pageantry, replete with sight and sound appeals, frequently getting overdone to the extent that the point of the activity easily gets lost amidst all the excitement.

The Lord’s Supper is a simple memorial. It has but two elements: unleavened bread, calling to mind Jesus’ body given for us, and fruit of the vine, calling to mind His blood poured out for our benefit (Luke 22:19-20). Christians gather on the first day of the week, the day Jesus rose from the dead, to eat and drink in His memory (Acts 20:7).



The Bible does not prescribe any ritual to accompany our eating and drinking. We do give thanks for each element, just as the Lord did; Paul referred to “the cup of blessing which we bless” (1 Corinthians 10:16). But the amount of time we allot to the Supper, whether we have a song or songs and/or a Scripture reading and/or expository remarks in conjunction with it, how much time we allot to it, or when in our Lord’s day assembly we have it – all these are matters of judgment. (The Bible does condemn combining it with an ordinary meal [1 Corinthians 11:17-34].)

Let’s be careful to make neither too little nor too much of the Lord’s Supper. Let’s proclaim the Lord’s death “in His own way.” ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	John Baucom	Chris Brooks	Josh Baucom
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Albert Lee Harrison	Frank Himmel
OPENING PRAYER	J B Williams	Adam Gibson	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Steven Turner	Steven Turner	
CUP	Josh Baucom	Josh Baucom	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Kerry Gray		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Lee Davenport	TBD