

Tsadhe
Psalm 119:137-144
ABC 10/2/18

Open your Bibles to Ps 119. I hope you realize & appreciate the treasure you have in your hand, & the tremendous privilege it is to be able to own a complete copy of the Bible in your own language in your own home. No one in Bible times was able to do that! We are privileged to have God's Word accessible to us at all times but we often take it for granted. Last Sunday Fred quoted a couple of times from John MacArthur's book, *Our Sufficiency in Christ*. I pulled it off the shelf & scanned through it this week. It's a great book, one you should read. In it he writes of his love for old Bibles from history:

I have a friend who collects rare Bibles. He owns a wonderful collection, with one Bible dating back to the 4th century. But my favorite is a Bible from 16th-century England, one of the earliest printed copies of God's Word. The top 3^d of this Bible is covered with the blood of its original owner. My friend let me hold it in my hands, & tears came to my eyes as I leafed through it.

How did blood get on the pages of that Bible? When Bloody Mary ruled England, she terrorized Protestants, murdering as many as she could. Her soldiers would spill the person's blood, then take his Bible & dip it deep into the blood. A few of those Bibles have been preserved & are known as Martyrs' Bibles...

I examined that Bible carefully, page by page. I could see where it was well worn from being studied. There are water stains, as if from tears, & places where a thumb had frayed favorite pages. This was someone's most valuable possession, & his or her blood is there to prove it.

In sad contrast, however, contemporary Christians tend to take their Bibles for granted, forgetting that many have given their lives just to own one copy....

There is no substitute for submission to Scripture. Your spiritual health depends on placing the utmost value on the Word of God & obeying it with an eager heart. If you think you can find answers to your spiritual problems through human counsel or worldly wisdom, you are forfeiting the most valuable & only reliable source of answers to the human dilemma. Don't relinquish the sweet, satisfying riches of God's Word for the bitter gall of this world's folly.¹

God's Word is truly & totally sufficient not only for salvation, but for our spiritual life & godliness. It's one thing to say that, but do we live like we believe it? If someone found your Bible years from now, would they be able to tell how much you loved & read it? Do we live like we believe what 2 Pt 1:4 says? That there are **precious & magnificent promises** in this book? Do our hearts resonate with what we read in Ps 119 or does it sound foreign to us? Why is the Bible so important to us? Because in it God reveals Himself to us & the Spirit of God uses the Word of God

¹ MacArthur, J., F. ... Jr. (1991). *Our sufficiency in Christ* (Electronic ed., pp. 88–90).

to implant faith in the child of God (Rom 10:17). The more we live in God's Word, the stronger our faith becomes. The message in this section of Ps 119 (137-144) is that we can depend on the Word of God because it is **righteous forever, upright, true, & pure**.

As we've seen, & see again today, this psalm was written amidst adversity & adversaries (139, 143). Vs 157 tells us these persecutors were many. In the presence of his enemies, the table of God's Word is spread as a feast for his soul & his cup overflowed with its satisfying goodness & mercy. One of the advantages of adversity is it causes us to depend on & delight in God's Word more & more. It drives us to go deeper into God's Word & to God Himself. It forces us to see God & His Word as absolutely **righteous**. Stand with me as we read God's Word to us today. **137-144**

PRAY

1. God's Word is Trustworthy No Matter What People Do² (137-139). God & His Word are **righteous** & what He says is always right. His Word is fully trustworthy. Though people attack & even ridicule it, the Word stands & will be here long after they're dead & their thoughts have been forgotten. People may sin & die, but God's righteousness & righteous Word remains (137, 138, 142, 144).

A. God's Word is Absolutely Righteous 137

The just & **righteous** character of God causes all His judgments & words that flow from Him to be consistent with that nature. God is the absolute standard of what is right & wrong, which is part of what this word, **righteous**, emphasizes.

*Righteousness is one of God's fundamental attributes, & it can express itself in the rewarding of the faithful & in the punishing of the wicked (cf. Neh 9:33; Ps 11:6ff). It can also be seen in the help given to the needy & oppressed (116:5ff; 145:17ff). In a legal sense it means that God is beyond reproach, & that no accusation can be brought against Him (Jer 12:1; cf Job 34:10-30).*³

Ever since the days of Gen 4, sinners like Cain have been complaining that they think God is too harsh & His judgments are more than they can bear. But the godly say with Abraham in Gen 18, **shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?** (25). The answer to is obviously, *Yes, God is a righteous Judge who always does & says what is right!* Ps 145:17 says, **The LORD is righteous in**

² Outline taken from Wiersbe, W. W., *Be Exultant*, p 134.

³ Anderson, *Psalms*, 2:841

all His ways. Dt 32:4 says, **all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness & without injustice, Righteous & upright is He.** Even Pharaoh had to admit, **I have sinned this time; the LORD is the righteous one, & I & my people are the wicked ones** (Ex 9:27). & as we saw in Rom 9, **There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!** (14). God is sovereign & who are we to talk back to Him? Can the clay tell the potter what is right? Of course not! & it's unthinkable that God is ever unjust. If you understand the Bible teaches we don't deserve anything from God (besides death, which is the wages of sin), you won't pull out the *that's not fair* card. You don't want what's fair! Any good we have is a grace to be thankful for, & even the things we don't consider good (afflictions & trials) aren't proof that God is unfaithful. They actually prove He is faithful & just & right & good to us. Look back at Ps 119:75. **I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are righteous, & that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.** The Bible mirrors the character of God. Anyone who cares about knowing what is righteous & wants to act righteously must read & study the Bible. Although God's written Word is an incomplete display of His character & nature; that is, there's more to God than what we can receive from His Word. But what we do have in His Word is accurate & reveals who He is to us. God isn't different than His written revelation to us. But He's greater than what can be comprehended through His written word, but He is not different than what is revealed to us through that Word. Not only is God & His Word **righteous**, it's also ...

B. Absolutely Upright 137b

Upright means straight, level, & right. It comes from a word that means to plow a straight row. *Blessed, blameless, & upright* all have to do with walking a straight path. Everything the Bible says is straight, level, & right. God's Word is also ...

C. Absolutely Faithful 138

It is **fully trustworthy** (NIV) & **absolutely reliable** (Net). You can bank on the righteous faithfulness of God & His Word all the time, forever. **144a**

Albert Barnes wrote: *Human governments change. Old dynasties pass away. New laws are enacted under new administrations. Customs change. Opinions change. People change. The world changes. But as God Himself never changes, so it is with His law. That law is founded on eternal truth, & can never change.*⁴

⁴ www.sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/barnes/psa119.htm

We often judge a person's faithfulness by seeing if their words & their actions match. Along with other believers through the centuries, the Psalmist could say that the words of God & the actions of God were & are consistent, & show Him to be very faithful. He hasn't changed. God & His Word are faithful. Even though more & more people seem to have forgotten God & His Word doesn't make it less righteous & upright. It's trustworthy no matter what people do, whether they believe it or not.

2. God's Word is Trustworthy No Matter What People Say (140–141). Over the centuries, the Scriptures have been thoroughly tested in the fires of persecution & criticism, the way a goldsmith tests precious metals (12:6–7; 18:30), & the Word has been found **pure**. One of the joys of the Christian life is to find new promises in the Word, test them in daily life, & find them trustworthy. The world wants to forget God's Word (139), but we must remember & depend on it. Why? Because it's ...

A. Absolutely Pure 140

Very pure has also been translated as **well-trying** (ESV) or **thoroughly tested** (NLT). Literally, it's *refined*. This word **pure** refers to the purifying process of a refiner, who heats metal, takes away the dross, & is left with a pure substance (Prov 25:4). This word isn't enough though & he adds the modifier, **very**. **Very pure** or **completely pure** (NET), meaning absolutely pure. The Psalmist understood & appreciated the purity of God's Word. In its original autograph writings it's perfectly pure, being absolutely inspired by God. In addition, the copies we have of those original writings are also pure, being extremely reliable copies. For the Hebrew Scriptures, the quality of the text was preserved by the diligent practices of the professional scribes. According to scholars (such as Josh McDowell in *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*) they practiced the following in the preparation & copying of manuscripts:

- No word & no letter could be written from memory; the scribe must have an authentic copy before him, & he must read & pronounce out loud each word before writing it.
- Strict rules were given concerning forms of the letters, spaces between letters, words, & sections, the use of the pen, the color of the parchment, & so forth.

- One mistake on a sheet condemned the entire sheet; if three mistakes were found in any larger section, the entire manuscript was condemned.
- Every word & every letter was counted, & if a letter were omitted, or an extra letter inserted, or if any letter touched one another, the manuscript was condemned & destroyed.

Until 1947, the oldest Hebrew manuscripts were from about 900 AD. In 1947, in the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts were found from 150-200 BC. In comparing the manuscripts, 1,000 years apart, there were remarkably few differences. This proved that the diligent practices of the professional scribes had accurately preserved the text of the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Greek Scriptures, there's a similarly astonishing rate of accuracy. Because of the vast number & quality of ancient Greek manuscripts, & the existence of relatively early copies, scholars say the error rate is between 0.5% & 2%. NT specialist Daniel Wallace⁵ notes that although there are about 300,000 individual variations of the text of the NT, this number is very misleading. Most of the differences are completely inconsequential (spelling errors, inverted phrases & the like). A side-by-side comparison between the two main text families (the Majority Text & the modern critical text) shows agreement a full 98% of the time.⁶ Of the remaining differences, virtually all yield to vigorous textual criticism. This means that our NT is 99.5% textually pure. In the entire text of 20,000 lines, only 40 lines are in doubt (about 400 words), & none affects any significant doctrine.⁷ The psalmist is right. God's Word is **very pure**. This is true for both the original autographs & the extremely reliable copies we have of the Hebrew & Greek Scriptures. RC Sproul sums it up this way:

*There is no dross in it; there is no error in it; it is pure & undefiled. Everything else, all of the counsel, all of the insight, all of the opinions of men that I have ever examined are flawed. There is not that sterling quality of essential purity ... "Purity" is a word that has all but disappeared from our language. Where are today's Puritans who want the pure gospel, the pure truth, the pure life of obedience? Where are those who seek the favor of God above all other considerations?*⁸

God's Word is more precious & pure than gold. His commitment to God's truth is more intense than man's desire for the purest forms of the most precious metal. If the love of earthly riches &

⁵ <https://danielbwallace.com/>

⁶ Wallace, Daniel, "The Majority Text & the Original Text: Are They Identical?," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, April-June, 1991, 157-8.

⁷ Geisler, Norman L., Nix, William E., *A General Introduction to the Bible*, p 475

⁸ R. C. Sproul, R.C. Sproul's chapters from symposium volumes (electronic ed.)

money is the root of all evil, then the love of the true & eternal riches of Scripture is the root of all good. The writer is committed to hold onto God's Words which are far more valuable than gold.

141

The Psalmist felt himself insignificant, both in his own sight (**small**) & in the eyes of others (**despised**). Yet he found comfort & strength in remembering the Word of God. The Psalmist wouldn't neglect God's Word when he was depressed or downcast. **Small & despised** doesn't feel good; yet he still remembered the Word of God when he felt this way. It's common to run away from exactly what we need when we feel **small & despised**. The degradation & defamation he was experiencing didn't cause a deep depression. Instead, it drove him to a greater dependence on the Word of God & the God of the Word. Isaiah 53 says even our Lord Himself was **despised & rejected of men**, so we're in good company if the world despises & rejects us for our association with Christ. Before God we truly are small, but as Isaiah says, "**Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,**" declares the LORD, "**and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel**" (41:14). When God calls the tribe of Israel **you worm**, that's not a flattering & image-boosting term. What could be more small or despised than a worm? But God tells them *fear not* & He doesn't then say, *you can do it*. No, He says, **I will help you**. The comfort isn't in what a worm we are, but it's trusting in what a great God we have who promises to help & be with us. Paul didn't mind being small & despised. He called himself least of all the saints (Eph 3:8) & least of the apostles & not worthy (1 Cor 15:9), but he was a servant of the Most High God (Acts 16:17). That's where his significance & purpose was found. Apart from Christ, we are nothing & can do nothing, but with Him, in Him, we can bear fruit that lasts for eternity. If God is for us who can be against us?

God's Word is trustworthy no matter what the world does or says. It's also trustworthy ...

3. Regardless of How You Feel (142–143). You may experience trouble & distress, as did the psalmist, & still find delight in God's truth. Our feelings change but God's Word never changes. God's Word isn't only true, but it is truth (142; Jn 17:17). The Word of God is truth, the Son of

God is truth (Jn 14:6), & the Spirit of God is truth (1 Jn 5:6). The Spirit of truth wrote the Word of truth, & that Word reveals the Son of God. When your feelings deceive you into concluding that it isn't worth it to serve the Lord, immediately turn to the Scriptures & delight in your Lord.

A. God's Word is Absolute Truth 142

So much of what we hear from other sources, even those considered to be reputable & reliable, is false. Who trusts anyone's words today? *Fake News* is all we hear about. Almost 30 years ago 2 researchers wrote a book called *The Day America Told the Truth* in which they claimed that Americans lie all the time & often for no apparent reason.⁹ Politicians lie. Executives lie. Employees lie. Kids lie. Parents lie. We are all liars! Is there anyone who doesn't lie? God does not lie. Every word He has spoken can be trusted. Every word! That is something truly wonderful! God's Word is absolutely & eternally true. It was true long before you existed & remains true even if you never believe it. Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, **What is truth?** (Jn 18:38). Unbelievers today ask the same question, but don't believe there's an answer that can be true for everyone. Our world believes truth has become obsolete but the Bible teaches God's truth is absolute, abiding forever.

- The world says truth is subjective, but biblical truth is objective.
- The world says truth is within us, the Bible says it's in God's Word.
- The world says something becomes truth when we believe it, biblical truth is true regardless of whether you believe it or not.
- The world says there are many truths (even conflicting truths can both be true) but Jesus said, **I am the way, the truth, & the life...** (Jn 14:6).

This is especially meaningful in a day when relativism has a strong hold in people's thinking. It's common for people today to think there's no such thing as real truth; there's only your truth & my truth & their truth. Western society used to believe that truth was that which corresponded to reality (what is really there); now truth is often held to be what makes sense or is helpful to us individually. Francis Schaeffer used to promote the idea of *true truth*. His concept was that the Biblical message is true fundamentally, apart from how one receives it or how it works in one's life. John MacArthur writes:

⁹ James Patterson & Peter Kin, *The Day America Told the Truth: What People Really Believe about Everything that Really Matters*, p 201

Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, & being of God. Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God. That is the biblical meaning of truth. Because the definition of truth flows from God, truth is theological.

Jesus also said that the written Word of God is truth. It does not merely contain nuggets of truth; it is pure, unchangeable, & inviolable truth that (according to Jesus) “cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Praying to His heavenly Father on behalf of His disciples, He said this: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17). Moreover, the Word of God is eternal truth “which lives & abides forever” (1 Peter 1:23).

Of course, there cannot be any discord or difference of opinion between the written Word of God (Scripture) & the incarnate Word of God (Jesus). In the first place, truth by definition cannot contradict itself. Second, Scripture is called “the word of Christ” (Colossians 3:16). It is His message, His self-expression. In other words, the truth of Christ & the truth of the Bible are of the very same character. They are in perfect agreement in every respect. Both are equally true. God has revealed Himself to humanity through Scripture & through His Son. Both perfectly embody the essence of what truth is.

Truth is not subjective, it is not a consensual cultural construct, & it is not an invalid, outdated, irrelevant concept. Truth is the self-expression of God. Truth is thus theological; it is the reality God has created & defined, & over which He rules. Truth is therefore a moral issue for every human being.¹⁰

How each person responds to the truth God has revealed is an issue of eternal significance. To reject & rebel against the truth of God results in darkness, folly, sin, judgment, & the never-ending wrath of God. To accept & submit to the truth of God is to see clearly, to know with certainty, & to find life everlasting. God’s Word is trustworthy no matter what people do or say & it is trustworthy no matter how we may feel. Finally...

4. God’s Word is Trustworthy No Matter How Long You Live 144

When we read the Word, we see words in ink on paper. When we read the Word aloud, we hear puffs of sound that quickly disappear. Paper & ink & puffs of sound may not seem very lasting, but the Word of God is eternal & fixed forever (89, 160). To build your life on God’s Word means to participate in eternity (Mt 7:24–29; 1 Jn 2:17). It isn’t the length of life but the depth of life that counts, & depth comes from laying hold of God’s Word & obeying it. Since God’s Word is completely trustworthy, what must we do?

1. We Must Be Zealous 139

¹⁰ Adapted from John MacArthur’s *Truth War*, www.gty.org/library/print/articles/A379

In the OT, to forget something wasn't a loss of memory but is almost always a conscience disregard of someone or something. The psalmist sees these people as apostates who have turned their back on God's special revelation. The more the enemies of the Psalmist rejected the Word of God, the more he was determined to be zealous for those Words. He would make sure he honored God's Word even if others did not. Zeal implies energy & action. The appreciation of the Psalmist for the Word of God wasn't passive. The living & active Word of God brought forth a living & active response from him. This was a godly zeal, not the zeal of his ungodly enemies. Many have a misplaced zeal. Paul spoke of adversaries who had great zeal for religion, but not according to knowledge (Rom 10:2). They were devoted to Judaism but they didn't know the God of Abraham if they rejected God's only Son whom He sent. There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death (Prov 14:12). As you look at all the different religions in the world, people will often say, *They're good people & sincerely believe their truth.* But God's Word teaches that many who are sincere are sincerely wrong. There's no one truly good in God's eyes, not even one (Rom 3:10-12). Only God is truly good (Mk 10:18). The Bible teaches only those who are covered by the perfect righteousness of Christ as their Lord can be pleasing to a holy God & accepted in His kingdom. Non-believers will say to us, *Don't be so narrow-minded. Don't you realize there are many different roads, & they all lead to the same place?* & you can honestly answer them,

Yes, I actually do realize that, & we believe that, too. There are hundreds & thousands of roads & ways leading to the same place, but that place is destruction! Broad is the road, Jesus taught, & virtually everyone is on it, going the way of their religion, but narrow is the one road to eternal life, in the opposite direction, & few find it (Mt 7:13-14).

Jesus Himself said, **I am the way, the truth, & the life, no man gets to the Father but through me** (Jn 14:6). 1 Tim 2 says **there is One Mediator between God & man, Christ Jesus** (5). It's not Jesus plus the saints, plus the sacraments, or plus any self-righteous works you do. If you're trusting at all in anything you do to get you to heaven, you aren't truly trusting in Christ's finished work as sufficient to save, & you are not, by biblical definition truly trusting in Christ. Many are zealous in religion, but don't have a saving relationship with Jesus. Your co-workers & friends may say, *that's narrow & arrogant & unloving.* & it would be arrogant if we were claiming our authority or

that something is true because we say it. But Jesus said it, not us. God determines eternity, not us. As for the charge of being narrow, Jesus Himself did use the word **narrow**. But He also used the words **whosoever believes** (Jn 3:15-17). So you can tell people that the road isn't too narrow for them if they believe. If God is right, the most loving thing we can do is to warn people about to perish of the only way of escape. It's the most loving thing we can do as our world goes down. As the world sinks like the Titanic, the most loving thing we can do is tell them there's a lifeboat available to them in Jesus Christ. He is the ark to save them from the floods of God's wrath. We need to be more zealous for the lost, as Fred emphasized last week. Jesus had compassion on sinful Israelites who were like sheep without a shepherd. But when it came to the zealots of Pharisee religion, the false shepherds & false teachers, & those who'd corrupted God's house, zeal consumed Him (Ps 69:9; Jn 2:13-17). He sent tables flying & drove them away from the house of God with a whip. His righteous indignation & holy zeal consumed Him with godly anger. Our only hope to escape God's zealous consuming wrath is to trust in Jesus & His death on the cross where He received the wrath we deserve. Don't trust in your works, trust in the work of Christ & that He alone is your Mediator, Redeemer & Savior. Repent of your sins, & ask God to enthroned Himself as Lord in your life.

To those who are already saved: Surrender even more & seek Christ-likeness more. We're commanded to be zealous for God's glory. In Rev 3:19 Jesus commands, **Be zealous therefore, & repent** (Rev 3:19). We need to repent for our lack of zeal, for our spiritual luke-warmness & apathy. Secondly...

2. We Must Be in Love with God's Word. That may sound weird, to be in love with a book. But remember that it's the God behind the Word who we ultimately are to love & therefore love all that He says to us in His Book. Like the light of the star that led the wise men to Christ, His Word is a light to our way & path, leading us to Christ Himself. **140**

It's purer than gold & its riches dwell within us as we love it more & more. Col 3:16-17 says,

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching & admonishing one another with psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

One way we know God's Word is dwelling in us is if we're thankful to God in our speech & deeds. Albert Barnes writes, *Therefore I love it. I love it because it is pure, holy true; not merely because it will save me. Apart from all references to myself, I love Thy truth as truth; I love purity as purity; I love law as law; I love holiness as holiness.*¹¹ Thirdly,...

3. We Must be Delighting in God's Commands 143

Moses said to Israel that God's commands were to be their life. Every believer has vss they take special comfort or delight in, especially God's promises, but the end of vs 143 emphasizes love & delight for the commands of God in particular. We've seen this before. Vs 35 says, **Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.** Vs 47 tells us, **I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love.** Do you delight in God's Word? In His commands to you?

Notice in vs 144 how he prays, which is a great pattern for us: **Give me understanding that I may live.** What he needed wasn't more or new revelation from God but greater insight into the sufficient & deep reservoir of God's Word. As God answered his prayer he'd be able to live more as God had intended him to live. I hope your prayer life isn't just prayers for God to change your circumstances so you can live more the way you want, but that you pray for God to give you understanding from His Word as you read it, so that you can live the way God wants. At the end of our text today, where he's at the end of himself with great trouble & anguish, he doesn't deny God's Word, he's determined to delight in it more. He wasn't consumed by his circumstances, but was lifted above them through the consolation of God's commandments. He asks for understanding so he might live. May it be the same for us.

¹¹ *Psalms*, 3:218

As the psalmist said, **Righteous are You, O Lord** (119:137). But we are sinners. How can we ever have a relationship with a holy God when we are unholy? How can we be *justified* & made right with God? Think of it as a court of law. There's a defendant (you), and there's a Judge (God). And we're all rightly charged with unrighteousness — a treasonous offense against the Judge Himself. To be justified means that the Judge declares you righteous, rather than guilty. It means to be cleared of any wrongdoing. The remarkable thing, according to the gospel, is that even though we truly are guilty, God **justifies the ungodly** through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 4:5). God's full acceptance of us is owing to the righteousness of Jesus Christ (1 Jn 2:1). We are declared righteous, and fully accepted by God, not on the basis of any righteousness in us, but only through faith, looking outside ourselves and joining us to a righteousness not of our own doing — Jesus who is our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30; Rom 5:19; 10:4; 2 Cor 5:21). We remember Him, His sinless life, atoning death, & victorious resurrection as come to the communion table again today. PRAY

Paul tells us, speaking of Abraham,

Therefore (because of his faith) **IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ** (Romans 4:22-5:1).

Eat of the bread remembering our Lord's sacrifice for us.

By God's doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor 1:30).

He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor 5:21).

This is the great exchange. Sinless, perfectly righteous Jesus was punished for our sins, experiencing God's wrath that we deserve. By doing so His righteousness is credited to us & we **become the righteousness of God in Him**. We drink of the cup remembering Jesus dying for us.