**R962 Rumination for July 2, 2023**

The **T**heme: **The BODY of Christ** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: …*a* ***body*** *hast Thou prepared Me:* Heb. 10:5

The **T**hots:

Intro. According to J.D. Watson *body* is the Greek word, *sōma…The original meaning of sōma <G4983> is not really certain, as one Greek authority tells us. Its first appearance was in Homer's work and referred to a corpse. It then took on the meaning of the torso and by application the whole body in the fifth century BC. Gnosticism and other ancient philosophies viewed the body (and all matter) as evil and the mind (and other non-physical things) as* ***good*** *(see Mar. 18).*

*With the coming of the NT, however, such pagan thought was dismissed. While it is used literally, of course, to refer to the physical body (e.g., Mark 5:29; James 2:16; etc.) and even a corpse (Matt. 27:58-59; etc.), sōma carries a deep spiritual meaning, namely the spiritual body of Christ, the* ***church****… Paul paints a graphic picture of this truth in 1 Corinthians (12:12-27; cf. Rom. 12:5). His analogy is that just as there are many members of the physical body, all working together for the advantage and furtherance of the body, so is every Christian a member of the body of Christ –* A Word for the Day: Key Words from the New Testament.

1. **The Physical Body of Jesus.**
2. Jesus **R**equired a **P**hysical Body to be our **S**acrifice to **R**edeem us.

Thus, God **P**repared Him a Body to die in and be the **S**acrifice for our **S**in. Heb. 10:5

*Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not,*

*but* ***a body hast Thou prepared Me****:*

1. Jesus needed a **B**ody to **S**uffer and **D**ie for Man. Heb. 2:9
2. *Jesus…was made a little lower than the angels* [as Man with a body, 2:6, 7] *for the suffering of death, …that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
3. *And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death,*

*even the death of the cross.* Phil. 2:8

1. After His death, His body was buried in Joseph’s tomb: Matt. 27:58, 59

*He* [Joseph] *went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,*

1. On the third day of His death, Jesus rose again **B**odily from His **D**eath. Mt. 28:6

*He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

*Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see;*

*for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have.* Lk. 24:39

1. One day, Jesus will **R**eturn in His own **R**isen Body to **R**aise the bodies of those who have died in Him,

and together with those who are still alive, they all will be **R**aptured to meet Him in the air and shall be with Him forever more in eternity! I Thes. 4:13-17

1. *…For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven…and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
2. *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* I Cor. 15:53f

1. **The Spiritual Body of Jesus. Rom. 12:5**

*So we,* ***b****eing many, are* ***one body in Christ****, and every one members one of another.*

1. The **S**piritual **B**ody of **C**hrist is the **U**niversal **C**hurch.
2. All **B**elievers in Christ have been ***B****aptised into this one* ***B****ody*.**I Cor. 12:12, 13**
3. *whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free* cf. Gal. 3:28a

*there is neither male nor female:*

1. *and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.* I Cor. 12:13b
2. *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* Gal. 3:27
3. All **B**elievers in Christ **B**elong to this one **B**ody:
4. *For as the body is* ***one****, and hath many members, and* ***all*** *the members of that one body,*

*being many, are* ***one*** *body: so also is Christ.* I Cor. 12:12

1. *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.* Rom. 12:4, 5
2. The **S**piritual Body of Christ is the **L**ocal **C**hurch. *John to the seven churches which are in Asia…*Rev. 1:4
3. *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.   
   And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

*And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.* I Cor. 12:4-6

1. *…The church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours*: I Cor. 1:2
2. **The Symbolic Body of Jesus – the bread at the Lord’s Supper.**

**See REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK.**

*Jesus invites His saints To meet around His board;*

*Here pardoned rebels sit and hold Communion with their Lord.*

*For food He gave His flesh, He bids us drink His blood;*

*Amazing favor! matchless grace Of our descending God!* Isaac Watts

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 962**

**C) The Symbolic Body of Jesus – the bread at the Lord’s Supper. From above.**

1. The **S**ymbolic **S**ignificance of the **Bread** – the **B**ody of Christ. Lk. 22:19
2. *And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying,*

*This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

1. *When He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body,*

*which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:24

1. The **S**ymbolic **S**ignificance of the **Cup** – the **B**lood of Christ. Lk. 22:20
2. *Also the cup…saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.*
3. *After the same manner also He took the cup, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:25
4. The **S**olemn Warning when Participating of the Lord’s Supper unworthily: I Cor. 11:28f

*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

*For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself …****not discerning the Lord's body****.*

The Corinthian Church did not discern the Lord’s **B**ody and His **B**lood:

1. They did not come with the **R**ight Purpose to **R**emember the Lord. I Cor. 11:20-22

*When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's Suppe r.*

1. And the **R**eason for their **R**etribution:
2. *For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not?*

*What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.*

1. *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.* I Cor. 11:30
2. They did not***R****emember Me* (the Lord)in His Death, Burial, **R**esurrection I Cor. 11:24
3. The **R**ich did not **R**each out or consider their poorer brethren I Cor. 11:21

*For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.*

1. **Why do you observe the Lord’s Supper?**

Do you come with the Purpose of **R**emembering the Lord as He commanded?

Or Do you come with the Purpose of just “Worshipping” Him?

Note: The Lord’s Supper is to **R**emember Him – “*Do this…”* I Cor. 11:24, 25

Not just to Worship Him without **R**emembering His Person, Death and **R**esurrection!

It is first **R**emembering Him leading to **R**evering (Worshipping) Him. **REFLECT**

**2.** 4) The **S**econd possibility in ***not Discerning the Lord’s Body*** is having the spirit of

Disunity among the members, thus, not testifying to the One Unity and Communion of the Body of Christ: Participating of the Lord’s Supper and yet refusing to commune with one another. See I Cor. 10:16 –

* 1. *The* ***cup*** *of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?*
  2. *The* ***bread*** *which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

How can two believers take part of the Lord’s Supper to proclaim their oneness and unity in the body of Christ and yet not have any communion with one another?

They are indeed not discerning the body of Christ! **REFLECT**

1. Another possibility of not discerning the Body of Christ in partaking of the Lord’s Supper is when unbaptized people are allowed to take of its symbols which proclaim the unity of baptized believers in the body of Christ. I Cor. 12:13

There are two ordinances given by the Lord to the church, viz. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Why is there the need to partake of the latter without having the need for the former? In the record of the Acts, believers in the Lord were baptized when they trusted in Him, e.g., 2:41; 8:12; 8:36, 38; 9:18; 10:47, 48; 16:31-33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16

Why then should a person not be baptized when he/she had believed in the Lord so that he can take part of the Lord’s Supper, discerning the Body of Christ? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *To* ***B****elieve and not be* ***B****aptised is like the* ***C****rucified thief on the* ***C****ross!*