

THE CUP OF DEMONS

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-22

In C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*¹, Uncle Screwtape offers his nephew a little advice on the goal and strategy of temptation.

You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.

Your affectionate uncle
Screwtape'

- I. Contact With Demons Exposition: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22
 - A. Historical/Cultural Background. The going taboo in Paul's day was eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. This practice posed three problems.
 - 1. The sacrificial dinner. This posed a problem for the Christian who was invited to this event where meat was served that had just been sacrificed to idols.
 - 2. The meat market. This involved the question for the Christian regarding whether or not he should buy meat in the marketplace that had earlier been sacrificed to idols.
 - 3. The private dinner party. The Christian who was invited to this event held by an unbelieving Gentile had to make the decision as to whether or not he would eat in this particular situation.
 - B. Practical Principles
 - 1. A PERILOUS ACTIVITY MAY APPEAR SAFE INITIALLY
1 Corinthians 10:19-20. What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20
Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they

¹ Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, p. 56.

- sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. (NKJV)
2. PARTICIPATION BRINGS CONTAMINATION 1 Corinthians 10:20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. (NKJV)
 3. CONTACT WITH DEMONS BREAKS COMMUNION WITH CHRIST 1 Corinthians 10:21-22 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's Table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? (NKJV)
- C. Their Entrance - Ground and Hold Ephesians 4:26-27 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. (NKJV)
1. Ground. The demons need a ground of entrance to get into our lives. "Ground" has been defined as "anything that gives advantage to Satan." Examples of "ground" that give opportunity for the devil and demons to enter are: Uncontrolled anger, disobedience, religious fanaticism, false cults, lust, sensuality, etc. According to Mrs. Penn Lewis, in her book War on the Saints, "This ground needs to be discovered, confessed to God as sin, and then cancelled in the name of Jesus Christ."
 2. Hold. Once a demon gains entrance, it must maintain a "hold" within the person. It is not always the same in every person. In King Saul's case, his open disobedience to the Word opened the way for a demon to enter his life. The demon's hold on him was depression and serious anxieties connected with murderous thoughts.
- D. WHAT ARE DEMONS LIKE?
1. IMMATERIAL: They are spiritual beings, and as such are not material. Jesus said, "Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). Being spirits they are independent of matter.
 2. INDEPENDENT: They are personal beings. Personality and corporeality are not to be confused. God is spirit, but He is not corporeal. The same arguments used to prove the personality of God can also be used to demonstrate the personality of demons. They have the power of thought, speech, and of action (Acts 19:15-16), since they have power to influence a human personality. The fact they "did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper abode" (Jude 6) and that they sinned (2 Peter 2:4), shows they had the power of moral choice. They were sensitive to fear (Luke 8:3 1), and had the power of rage (Matthew 8:28).

3. **INTELLIGENT:** They are intelligent beings. The unclean spirit who controlled the man in the synagogue cried out, "I know who You are-the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24). Their replies to Christ were couched in intelligent language. The evil spirit said to the sons of Sceva, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?' He could discern the true from the false. Some have suggested that the Greek word demon derives from a word meaning 'intelligent.' But their intelligence is debased and devoted to evil purposes.
4. **INVISIBLE:** They are invisible beings. Being incorporeal, they are neither visible nor tangible. There is no record in Scripture of their taking visible or tangible form.
5. **CONVINCED:** They are believing beings. There are no atheists among them. "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder' (James 2:19). They have faith, but not saving faith, for it does not lead them to repentance. They recognize and confess the deity of Christ, but refuse to give Him their allegiance. They also know who are true believers, and they obey the authority of Jesus' name (Acts 19:15).
6. **BODYLESS:** They are incorporeal beings, but seem to have a strange passion to possess living organisms, whether human or animal. "The demons entreated Him, saying, 'Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.' . . . The unclean spirits entered the swine" (Mark 5:12-13). "Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first' (Matthew 12:45). It appears they must have control of bodily organs to enable them to execute their hellish assignments. Having once gained control over a human body, they seem to be able to come and go at will. "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'" (Luke 11:24).
7. **POWERFUL:** They are powerful beings, and exercise superhuman strength. And they are also able to impart superhuman strength to their victims. "A certain man ... who was possessed with demons; ... He was bound with chains and shackles ... yet he would burst his fetters" (Luke 8:27, 29). They delight to make use of human bodies for evil purposes.
8. **COUNTLESS:** They are innumerable and well organized, so they can represent their prince in any part of the world (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30; Matthew 12:28-27).

9. DOOMED: They are painfully aware of their impending doom. "What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8-29, italics added). Their destiny is "the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).
 10. DEFILED: They are all wicked, but not all equally wicked. The unclean spirit who had gone out of a man returned with "seven other spirits more wicked than itself (Matthew 12:45, italics added).
 11. MALIGNANT: They have power to inflict physical disabilities. "My son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth" (Mark 9:17-18)².
- E. WHAT ARE DEMON CONTACT POINTS?
1. IMAGES: *Worshiping any image* is a place for demon intrusion. That is the most literal and obvious kind of a place for demon intrusion, the kind so frequently denounced in the Old Testament. It is the kind in which a person makes an image with his own hands and then "falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, 'Deliver me, for thou art my god'" (Isa. 44:17). Even statues or other images of Christ are not to be revered or worshiped. Only Christ is to be worshiper, not likenesses of Him. They do not represent Jesus Christ, no matter what our claims and intentions are. "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Even non-liturgical Christians should be on guard, whether in public worship or private devotions, about associating any place, picture, or pattern of worship too closely with God. It is easy for such a thing to come between us and Him, though we may think it helps draw us closer.
 2. ANGELS: *Worshiping angels* is a place for demon intrusion. Paul warns, "Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels" (Col. 2:18). When, overcome with awe, John fell at the feet of the angel who was speaking to him, the angel said, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God" (Rev. 19:10). Angels are created beings and, whether holy or fallen, are not to be venerated or worshiped.
 3. DEMONS: *Worshiping demons* is a place for demon intrusion, and is closely associated with worshiping images, behind which are often demons. In Satan cults demons are worshiped directly. Speaking of the Tribulation, John foretells

² J. Oswald Sanders, *Satan is no Myth*, p. 64-67.

that “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood” (Rev. 9:20).

4. **DEAD PEOPLE:** *Worshipping dead people* is a place for demon intrusion. Referring to a place for demon intrusion that Israel learned from Moab, the psalmist wrote, “They joined themselves also to Baal-peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead. Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds; and the plague broke out among them” (Ps. 106:28–29). We do not worship human beings, whether they are alive or dead, saintly or otherwise. Even the great heroes of Scripture—such as Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets, Mary, or the apostles—are never to be worshiped. That is a place for demon intrusion.
5. **SELFISHNESS:** *Supreme loyalty in our heart to anything other than God* is a place for demon intrusion. Every person is tempted with ambitions, desires, possessions, recognition, and a host of other such things that easily can become idols. “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,” Jesus said (Matt. 6:21). The greatest heart treasure, or heart idol, is self.
6. **GREED:** *Covetousness* is a place for demon intrusion. Those who covet or are greedy worship at the shrine of materialism, one of the most popular and powerful idols of our day. But Paul says, “For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God” (Eph. 5:5; cf. Col. 3:5). Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? (NKJV)
7. **LUST:** *Inordinate desire, or lust*, is a place for demon intrusion. Paul speaks of “enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things” (Phil. 3:18–19). The person whose mind, desires, longings, and appetites are set on fleshly things is an idolater.
8. **AMUSEMENTS:** exposing your mind to satanic ideas and stories must be constantly avoided. Some examples are:
 - a) Movies that follow the theme of Satan and his demons. Science fiction that portrays superhuman powers available from cosmic sources leave unguarded minds open to endless fantasies about what if . . . [MARS LIFE]

- b) Television programs dealing with the occult directly or indirectly.
- c) Music that popularizes demonic activities, words and mantras.
- d) Plays promoting contact with demons.
- e) Games which encourage contact with demons and their related activities should be avoided and burned! (This is the scriptural method of with such things.)
- f) Literature. The feeding of one's mind on the lewd information and photographs so widely and easily available gives a ground of entrance for the demons of sensuality.
- g) Actual Occult Practice A list of those things which bring with them demonic contact: black magic, astrology, fetishes and talismans, fortune-telling, séance meetings, witchcraft, palmistry, spiritism, ESP (extra-sensory perception), pictures of witches and occult propaganda, voodoo dolls, candles with occult significance, incense, excessive superstition, religious practices that highlight the emotional, cults, Satan worship, tarot cards, Ouija boards, crystal balls, black cubes and related occult practices.

II. Defense Against Demons

- A. We must Confess Jesus Christ as Personal Lord and Savior (John 12:46). Full deliverance comes only through personally claiming His blood and His victory at Calvary on your behalf
- B. We must Cancel All Occult/Demonic Practices. Name the sin specifically and burn every trace of any tangible paraphernalia. A total removal and destruction is the only cancellation that God accepts. Acts 19:11-20 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the

price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. (KJV)

- C. We must Claim God's Promises Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (NKJV); 1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (NKJV)
- D. We must Use our Armor Ephesians 6:11-18 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.] 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -- (NKJV)
1. Belt of Truth. Implement of battle hung from the belt which held the soldier's robe together. This means "honesty," "truthfulness," "integrity," and "sincerity."
Duplicity brings defeat!
 2. Breastplate of Righteousness. This was a heavy piece of armor that completely enclosed the body. This means personal, daily righteousness maintained by confession of sin.
Impurity will bring defeat!
 3. Shoes of Peace. Soles of the soldier were impregnated with heavy, spike-like hobnails which gave him a good footing. This carries with it the idea of "readiness" or "peace of mind."
Anxiety brings defeat!
 4. Shield of Faith. It was a portable door which the soldier hid behind. The shield served as the buffer from the flaming darts of the enemy. Faith extinguishes all the flaming missiles of the evil one.
Doubt brings defeat!
 5. Helmet of Salvation. The meaning of the helmet is assurance of salvation.
Lack of assurance brings defeat!

- E. Offensive Equipment (Vv. 17b, 18)
 - 1. Sword of the Spirit. Memorizing the Scripture is essential to effectiveness in battle.
 - 2. Prayer. This includes petition at all times for others as well as yourself.
- Alertness. The good soldier must be ever alert.

960811 AM TRANSCRIPTION

Let's open in our Bibles, please, to 1 Corinthians chapter ten. I read just a couple of verses there this morning. I'm going to keep reading, starting in verse 14, and I'd like to as we approach the Lord's table this morning, I'd like to explain to you the dilemma that faced a group of believers much like us nearly 2,000 years ago in the seaport commercial town of Corinth. And I want to show you the struggle they had as they came to the Lord's table. And if we're not careful, it could be a similar struggle we have as we come to the Lord's table this morning, if we have not guarded our lives. If you want to follow along, 1 Corinthians chapter ten and then we'll read 14-22. "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

Now most of us in 1996, we get that far we go, oop, don't have to read anymore. We don't have any idols nowadays, right? Haven't seen any downtown, they're not around, and so we don't have to worry about this. Wrong. He's going to explain and I'm going to share with you this morning that I believe idolatry is perhaps more rampant today than it was in the first century.

Verse 15, "I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say." Now he introduces what I already read about communion. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For though many, we are one bread and one body, for we all partake of that one bread. Observe Israel after the flesh. Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What am I saying then? That an idol is anything or that which is offered to idols is anything? Rather that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons."

Now for just a moment you can look up for a second from the Bible. It is possible for Christians to have fellowship with demons.

Continue reading. The next verse, 21. "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord," that's what we're doing this morning, "and the cup of demons." Notice the title this morning. The Cup of Demons? Are you partaking? Am I partaking of the cup of demons in my life? What is the cup of demons? Well, let's let him explain it to us.

Verse 22. "Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?"

Well, what was going on in the first century was, 1) the people living in Corinth were living in a cosmopolitan Greek city in the Roman empire, and there was a pantheon of gods. We know a lot of them like Cupid, which has come into American culture. They had Apollo the war god, they had Venus, the goddess of love, Aphrodite, she had many names. They had Mercury, they had Zeus, the

king of the gods, they had the god of the underworld, they had all these gods. And they weren't hideous, ugly creatures. They were handsome and muscular and beautiful. And they would have temples to these various gods. And what would happen is to make sure that it rained at proper times, and you stayed healthy, and you won the wars, you would, if you were a pagan Greek in a Roman empire city, you would make offerings to these gods. And what you'd do is go down to the market, you'd buy a beautiful bull or you'd buy a beautiful lamb or something else and you'd bring it into this pagan temple. I'm talking about pagan, unbelieving people. You'd bring it into the temple. The priest would take it, and would sacrifice it, and say, now the gods are happy with you.

Well, when you sacrificed an animal, especially if there were a lot of people doing this, you couldn't burn them all, it would be a waste. And so these pagan priests would just take a little bit of it, either burn it on the altar or they would take the blood and do something with it. And on the backside of the temple was the freshest meat market in the city. Because they were constantly killing live animals and there was no problem with refrigeration, with storage, and with delivering of these, because they just took them from the altar of the temple and went out the back door and stuck 'em on the tables. And you could go to the backside of the temple and get the nicest, grade A, USDA choice meat at really low prices. Because it cost the priest nothing. And it was a pure profit deal.

And so these people were troubled with, first of all, the meat market. It involved the questions for Christians regarding whether or not they should buy meat at the marketplace. Now they wanted to be good stewards, you know, the Lord's money, all that we have, and if you went there, you could get a steak for a quarter a pound when it was \$3 downtown. Well, where would you buy your meat? Well it was a real problem with the Christians because if they bought meat in the marketplace, it had been sacrificed to idols. It had been offered to Zeus or to Diana or whoever of the gods that were being honored at that time. So that was a problem.

The second problem they had was if you went over to your next-door neighbors. Let's say that you're living out on Lakayon??? Road, which is the main road that's still in Corinth, and you were off in some beautiful sea view place, and your next door neighbor invited you over for a little dinner party. And they came and they brought out this beautiful, beautiful, you know, standing rib roast. Would you have to say to them, where'd you buy that? You know, did you get that at the idol market? And so the problem with the dinner was, for a Christian when they're invited to an event where meat was served, it could have just come from being offered to idols. And thus the Christians were troubled in private, in public meetings. Let's say that you have a company party in Corinth. And your boss has this lavish feast. What if that meat had come from the temple market?

So Paul's talking about that. So that's the background, and the historical, cultural background was the going taboo in Paul's day for Christians was you couldn't eat

meat offered to idols. That was just kind of, I'm not sure what the current ones are in our society, but when I was little, I remember, they were card playing, dancing, and movies. I mean, oh. You just couldn't play cards if you were a Christian. You know, and all this stuff. And I mean, they're just taboos. It doesn't, the Bible doesn't say anything about cards, it doesn't say anything about those things. They were just things that were cultural taboos for Christians. The Bible doesn't say anything about meat sacrifice to idols.

So here's what Paul says. Listen. Verse 16, he says, "We are communing with the body of Christ." And verse 19, "Idols are nothing." And verse 20, "The things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons." And so what he's saying is if there is a tie to those demons with that meat, and if you don't like that tie, you should not have a part of it. And if your brother or sister in Christ has a problem with that, they should not have any problem with that. He says, idols are nothing. He said, those are just nothing idols. They're just pieces of stone or wood. And we know they're nothing. But we know that behind them inspiring those idols are demons. And if that meat is associated with the demons, and if that is something that has pricked your conscience, you should have nothing to do with the demons of the idols. That's what the whole text is about.

Now what are some principles about this? 1) A perilous activity may appear safe initially. You know it's perilous to have anything to do with demons. But sometimes as Christians we might get involved in something that looks very innocuous or safe at the beginning. And that's what Paul is saying in 19 and 20. He says, what am I saying? That an idol is anything or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, verse 20, the things which a Gentile sacrifices, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

What's Paul limiting them from? I believe personally he wasn't limiting them from eating that meat. He was limiting them from the actual sacrificial offering of the demons those sacrifices. And what he is saying is that those idols are nothing, the meat is meat, and it's all right. But don't be involved in communing with demons.

And what it was was these people were coming out of the world, and they were coming into the Corinthian society as new believers, and they didn't know how far they could go. They knew idols were nothing and so some of them seemed to have been going into the old temples where they used to go. And they knew that that sacrifice was nothing and so they were eating the sacrificial dinners. And some of them had gone so far as they wouldn't even touch the stuff, and they went around to everybody's house and said, if any of this bologna came from the meat market, I'm not going to eat it. And it was causing a real disruption. 1) A perilous activity may appear safe initially.

Secondly, participation brings contamination. I'm going to talk about that a lot this morning before we come to the Lord's table. Did you know that there are

things those Christians could participate in that contaminated them? Verse 20, “I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.” By your participation with demons you get contaminated.

Now a lot of us go, whew, we don't have any idols around here. Right? We don't have any demons in Tulsa, do we? I mean there's no temple to some bull god somewhere where they're cutting up animals and squirting blood around and offering them to demons, right? Whew. Boy we don't have any problem with that. Well, that's not true, fully. I don't think they're killing animals around here to demons these days other than some wacko occultic group off in the fringes where they find cows out in the pasture, or in the range that are drained of their blood and their hearts are gone. I mean, they do find that. But that's not the norm.

But what could we participate in? And look at verse 21 of 1 Corinthians 10, because the third principle, not only can sometimes a perilous activity appear safe initially, and if we participate in one of these perilous activities it contaminates us, but the bottom line of this text is that contact with demons will break our communion with Christ. And so, the teaching of this passage is in this place, in that time, it was wrong for them to go into the temples where the demons were being placated by the offerings of sacrifices. That's what the interpretation of this text is. But how does it apply to us today? Well, the application which is powerful to us is that contact with demons of any kind breaks our communion with Christ. That's what it says in verse 21. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, the Lord's table, and the cup of demons, participating with demons in any fashion or form. You cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

That's how we understand what Paul is saying, because the table of the demons was the sacrificial dinner in the temple. And it was free. You talk about a great meal. As I said, the freshest, nicest meat offered inside the temple. They would have a sacrificial dinner to those gods. And those Christians who formerly had been involved in those orgies and those dinners to the idols, once they got saved, they said, oh, idols are nothing. I can go back and eat there. And Paul says, no, you can't. He says, don't go so far as to be examining the label on everybody's dinner meat and see if it's from the temple, 'cause he said that's not the problem. The problem is don't partake with demons in any form. Don't partake in their sacrifices, don't partake in the sacrificial dinners, and don't have any contact with them.

Well, what is contact with demon? How does that happen? Well, turn to Ephesians four now for just a moment. Ephesians four. I want to show you something very interesting that a lot of us maybe need to be reminded of in our personal lives. It says in Ephesians four that the way we have contact with demons and contact with demons remember breaks our communion with Christ. It doesn't make us lost. It doesn't make us lose our salvation. It ruins our

fellowship with Christ. It separates us from that joy of communing with Him. It causes us to be in disobedience to Him. How does that happen? Well, it says in Ephesians 4:26, "Be angry and do not sin." Well, that's a paradoxical statement, isn't it? Be angry and don't sin? And it continues. "Don't let the sun go down on your wrath," verse 27, here's the key, "nor give place to the devil."

I want to talk to you about two things. Ground and hold. We can give ground to the devil and we can allow him to get a hold on our lives. A ground is defined this way. Demons need a place of entrance to get into our lives. The ground has been defined as, and this is what writers over the years that have studied the occult and demon influence on Christians, anything that gives an advantage to Satan in our lives. Now how does the Bible define that? Well, an opportunity for the devil and demons to influence us are, in this text, uncontrolled anger.

You know there are people they say, oh, I lost my temper. They didn't lose their temper. They found it. And they have done nothing to get rid of it. And a person who has rage and uncontrolled anger, it says in verse 27 of Ephesians, has given a foothold, a beachhead. They've given an entrance for Satan to come in and influence their life.

How many people have said things in anger that they would never say? They would never want to say, they would be so stricken, but in the fury of the moment, in a rage, they say things that are critical and destructive and totally damaging. I mean, how many people have regretted forever the last words they said, perhaps, to others that they were in fellowship with in a church, when they disagree with them and they went, !!! and they storm out and a thousand times they wish they could take those back. How about to a child? Or to a partner in marriage? When you're angry you say...

When we have uncontrolled anger, we have given ground, we have given a place for the devil and his minions to come into our lives and to hinder us.

The scriptures also say disobedience opens the door. When we directly disobey the scriptures, lust, uncontrolled desire opens the door to Satan. Sensuality. In fact, a lady who examined the great revival, the Welsh Revival in 1904, in that period of time, wrote a book called "War on the Saints." And what she did is she came in behind the revival and looked at what caused the revival to diminish and end. And her book is a monumental book, is called "War on the Saints." And this is what she says, Mrs. Jesse Penn Lewis, "This ground needs to be discovered. It needs to be confessed to God as sin, and then it needs to be turned from in the name of Jesus Christ." And we're going to talk about some of the grounds and I'm going to show you some of the scriptures. But once a demon gains an entrance, he will have to maintain a hold within the person, if he's to continue. And that means if we don't confess and forsake and get cleansed of the anger, the lust, the sensuality, or the occultic contact we have

through going, as they did, to temples, to demons, if we don't forsake that, then there is a perpetual influence on our lives by those demons.

What's that influence like? It's a dampening of us spiritually; it's an insatiable desire to do things we know is not right. It is that horrible fear, it's that horrible anger, it's that horrible, clutching desire that just rips us. The demons are seeking and Satan is seeking for us to give him ground so that he can get a hold on our lives.

Well, what are demons like? You might want to jot these down if you have some place. I'm going to just quickly read to you what these wicked, nefarious spirit beings are like. 1) they're immaterial. They are spiritual beings. They don't have a material body. This is what Jesus said. Here's a reference for you, Luke 23:39. "Touch me and see," he's talking to Thomas, "for spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And what he declared is Satan and all the demons do not have corporeal. They don't have bodies. They're spirits. They're immaterial.

Secondly, they're independent. These are not evil influences. These are personal beings. Don't confuse personality and corporeality. You don't have to have a body to be a person. A spirit being is as much a person as we are. God is a spirit, but He doesn't have a body. The same arguments can be used to prove the personality of God that can be used to demonstrate the personality of demons. Demons think and act and will and feel. They are persons just like we are, and just like God is, only they are maligned, and wicked, and evil, and fallen, and sinful, and damned creatures. It says this in Acts 19:15,16, that they have the power to influence human personality. Remember they would come into people and they would speak through them. Demons have to have a ground and a hold to operate. They cannot operate out there floating around. They have to work by the means of people, by influencing people through people and through events that they transpire in our lives. So demons are independent individuals.

Thirdly, they're intelligent. In fact, demon means intelligent one. That's what the word means. They are very intelligent. They are thousands of years old. They have no language barriers. They have no time and space barriers. They are endless in their existence because they are eternal, as we are, because God gave to them life and they're going to live forever in the lake of fire with Satan prepared for the devil and his angels. But they're very intelligent. Mark 1:24 says this, "I know who you are," they said to Christ, "you are the holy one of God." See, they know. They know who we are. One time they said, in the book of Acts, the evil spirits said to the sons of Sceva, Jesus I know, Paul I know, but who are you? In fact, the very word from which the word demon is derived means intelligent ones. But their intelligence is debased and devoted to evil purposes.

Fourthly, they're invisible. They're invisible beings. Demons, being incorporeal, they don't have bodies, they're not visible. They're not tangible, and there's no record in the scripture of a demon ever taking a visible or tangible form. They don't just show up as objects floating around. They are invisible.

Fifthly, they're convinced. I thought this was interesting. Write down James 2:19. And this is what it says. James, the brother of Christ, the half-brother of Christ, said to the believers in the church in Jerusalem, you believe that God is one, you do ??? The demons also believe and shudder. Did you know that there are no unbelieving demons? They believe. They're scared to death. They get around Christ, and they back up, and they say, is it time? Don't send us to the pit yet. We thought we had longer before we're confined forever. I mean, they believe. They know who He is. They do not go against Him. They are convinced and they know that they are damned because of their rebellion.

Sixthly, as I said before, they're bodiless. They're incorporeal. That means that they have a strange passion to possess living organisms whether human or animals. It says in Mark chapter five that the demons entreated Christ saying, send us into the pigs so that we may enter them. And Christ allowed them, and the unclean spirits entered into the herd of swine. That's Mark 5:12,13. Also the scriptures tell us that when a spirit was cast out of someone it takes along with him, Jesus said, seven other spirits more wicked than itself and they go in and live there and the last state of that man is worst than the first, Matthew 12:45. It appears that demons must have control of bodily organs to enable them to execute their hellish assignments. Having gained control over a human body, they seem to be able to come and go at will. It says that in Luke 11:24, "When the unclean spirit goes out of the man," it says in verse 24, "it passes through waterless places seeking rest and finding none," it says, "I'll return to the body from which I came.

You say, you mean there are people around us today that are demon possessed. Oh, boy. Did you read about the rapist they just released that would draw with a syringe blood out of his victims and drink it? And he took half of the blood supply of one of his latest victims out with his syringe and drank it? And after one year in jail, they let him out. Do you think he thought of that by himself? That is exactly the type of conduct and activity...

I had a friend that was a state trooper in California and he said that, and this is really gross and you know on TV it says this is not good for everyone, but I tell you, this is the world we live in. Do you know why they carry shotguns in their cars? 'Cause of some of the people that they meet up with. And in a car accident there's a guy under PCP control (that's an old designer drug that used to be), and that person came out of that car. And when he saw the policeman coming, he came right at them and just started screaming and saying, "I will kill you, I will kill you." And the guy took his shotgun and this fellow came at him with a knife, and he shot him with his shotgun. This was in the 70's in California. And

he said that that blast blew off a part of that guy's body and he didn't stop a beat. He came at him, and he said that voice, and the facial contortions, and the hatefulness, and he said he shot the other barrel at him. And it didn't stop him. And he said that man came right up to him with that knife and then collapsed in front of him. Now the human body alone is not able to do such things, to have part of it missing and to continue going. But with the influence of drugs, and the opening of the mind to the spirit world, and the super-strong power that demons have, it's something that's all around us. And we need to realize that.

We need to not be afraid and go around saying, "Oh, who's got demons? I want to go home and lock my doors." You know? No, no, no, no. Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world, but we must not commune with those demons and we need to get to that.

Demons are countless, it says in Matthew 12:28 and 27, that they are innumerable. They're doomed and they are painfully aware of it, it says in Matthew 8 and verse 29. Have you come here to destroy us? They're defiled, they are all wicked, not equally wicked. Some are even worse than others, Matthew 12:45, it says that some demons are more wicked than others. They're all defiled. Some are worse. They have power. They're malignant. They can inflict physical disabilities on people, Mark 9:17 and 18, talks about one who caused the person to be a mute, caused them to be epileptic. And demons are malignant and they can do these terrible things to humans.

But praise the Lord! A demon cannot enter a spirit sealed believer. 2 Corinthians 1:21,22 says that we are sealed by the spirit of God. That we are kept by God, by the power of God, that we are impervious to demonic intrusions into our lives, but we're not safe from demonic influence.

How do we have contact with demons? Let me just read off to you a list. The first one that Paul says is to be guarded against is right in our text, in 1 Corinthians 10. Images. Worshipping images of any kind, idols, is an intrusion for Satan to come into our life and influence us. You say what do you mean by that? Well, the most literal and obvious kind of a place for a demon to intrude us that is denounced all the way through the Bible is the worshipping, the falling down, as Isaiah 44:17 says, before an image.

Now listen. Even statues or other images of Christ are not to be revered or worshipped. What was the golden calf deal in Exodus 32-34? What were they doing? They were worshipping Jehovah shaped like a cow. They weren't worshipping cows, they were worshipping the true God with an idol, and God says I will destroy them all. Because God cannot be portrayed with an idol. And God the son can't be either. And the worship of Christ, any likeness of Him, any statues and images of Him are not to be revered or worshipped. John 4:24 says that God is a spirit and if you want to worship Him, worship Him in spirit and in truth.

And you know we're non-liturgical Christians. But we should be on guard whether in our public worship or in private devotion of associating any place, any picture, any pattern of worship too closely with God. It's easy when we do that for these things to come between us and God. Be careful about images of any kind and associating spiritual devotion to those images.

Secondly, we're not to worship angels because that's a demon entrance. It says in Colossians 2:18, "Let no one defraud you of your prize by the worship of angels." You know angels are powerful beings. The apostle John was overcome with awe and he fell at the feet of the angel that was speaking to him, in Revelation 19:10. This is an apostle. This is one that walked with Christ. And he got near an angel and he just fell down and grasped the angel and was just overwhelmed with awe and worship. And what did the angel say to him? He said, don't do that. I'm your fellow servant, and I'm the servant of your brethren who worship God. Don't worship me. Don't worship angels.

You know there's a real big deal on angels or there has been the last few years. You have to be careful. That's an entrance for demons because Satan is an angel of light. Remember, he's not hideous and ugly and horrible. He is an angel of light. He clothes himself with light.

I saw one of his mouthpieces has got a new book out. Betty Edie??? has written another book about Satan. And he is beautiful, only she calls him Jesus, cause that's what Satan wants to be known as. And the best seller for four years has written another book. "Be Embraced by the Light" woman has got another gospel of Satan out on the bestseller list. Do you know Christians come to me and show me that book and they say, isn't this a delightful book? It just makes me feel so good.

You know Satan doesn't come across as a monster. He comes across as an angel of light. Be careful about worshipping angels or any of their writings.

We should also be careful about greed. And it says in the book of Acts chapter five verse three that Peter said to Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? Did you know that covetousness in any form is a place for demons to enter into our lives. Those who covet or are greedy worship at the shrine of materialism, and that is probably the most powerful idol and popular one of our day. And the scriptures say in Ephesians 5:5, Paul said, "For this you know of the certainty that no immoral, impure person or covetous man who is an idolater has a place in the kingdom of God." Did you know this morning that if we long for things, that we have given a door open to demons in our lives? If we sit around and plan and think like the (END OF SIDE ONE) chapter 12, who was looking and looking and looking for ways to build bigger barns and to store more junk to keep, to provide for himself, that he lost his soul. Greed is an open door to Satan.

Lust is an open door to Satan. Paul speaks in Philippians 3:18 and 19 that those who are lustful, whose end is destruction, whose God is their appetite, who glory in their shame. The person whose mind, and desires, and longings, and appetites are set on fleshly things are idolatrous, and they've given an open door to demons.

Finally this morning, amusements can be an open door to demons. Exposing our mind to Satanic ideas and stories are to be constantly avoided. Movies that follow the theme of Satan and his demon, the whole concept these days of science fiction that portrays these superhuman forces that can come and enter from cosmic places, who knows where, and they're empowering these people to do all kinds of things. An unguarded mind will just think and think and think about that. That's why the apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians ten verses four and five, to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.

Do you know what one of the most blinding things in our society is? We have a whole generation of young people that can hardly tell the difference between the fantasy world of science fiction and movies and the real world, the world of God, and sin, and humans, and redemption, and the Bible. And they know more about the inhabitants of Alderon??? than they know about the Bible. And they spend their time... Used to be baseball cards was the big deal, but now it's the fetish of this whole imaginary world. And they spend their time in these games, and in these books, and in these movies, and they hardly have a place in their mind for God.

And that's why the scriptures say that we're to cast down those imaginations and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Why? Because a mind that is unguarded and opened to the nostic??? views of the force, that's just old-fashioned nosticism, an eternal power that's either good or evil and you can harness it either way. George Lucas didn't think of that. That's Satan's lie from the garden of Eden on. And Christians are being seduced by the glamorous movies into having these thoughts, and it's bringing a foothold for Satan. And you meet a lot of young people, they can't explain why they're discouraged, and depressed, and they're paralyzed, and they can't read the Bible, and they could not even think of witnessing to people because there just seems to be a gloom over their life. Well, Satan has a hold. He's got a ground.

Television programs dealing with the occult either directly or indirectly must not be watched.

Music that popularizes demonic activities, words, the mantras, the statements in a lot of these songs are coming right out of the east. They're coming right from India, and from the ancient mystery religions, and they're coming right into American culture.

Literature that feeds one's mind on lewd information... I read in the paper yesterday that the current problem in our public libraries is that these young people, through the Internet, are tapping right into the most lewd, and sensuous, and filthy material that no one has ever had access to, and they can just watch it on the screen in the public library - free of charge.

Bonnie said, I read the article to her, she said, what do you think that's going to do to our world? I said, I think another flood is coming. Because every imagination of our society's thoughts is on the evil continually.

Actual cultic practices, black magic, astrology, you know, looking up your zodiac sign, fetishes, talisman, fortune-telling, seances, all of those things, voodoo dolls, candles with occultic significance, incense with occultic significance, excessive superstition, religious practices that highlight the emotional, cultic, Satanic worship, tarot cards, Ouija boards, crystal balls, black cubes and related occultic practices all give an entrance for Satan.

A few years ago I was visiting a family and I was discipling the husband and he told me, you know, I'm always struggling. I just can't seem to get anything done with the Lord. And he took me down to this basement. We walked through their game section on the way to his workshop. And you know they had a Ouija board, they had one of those black things you shake up and it gives you messages, and I said, what is that doing here? And he said, oh, those are just games. They're not just games. Anything with occultic significance is a place for Satan to have an entrance into our lives.

What's our defense, in conclusion, against these things? Well, the best defense and the first defense is we must confess Jesus as personal Lord and savior. Full deliverance only comes through personally claiming his blood and his victory at Calvary on your behalf. If you are a Christian and you're still struggling and these things are still a part of our life, secondly, we must cancel, we must turn from all occultic and demonic practices. We have to name specifically that sin, and we should burn any trace of the paraphernalia. You know if you have lewd literature, don't throw it in your trash can for the garbage man to get. If you have some wicked, occultic voodoo doll or I guess they have Cochina??? dolls here, the Indian worship of Satan. If you have that stuff around, don't throw it out for someone else to get. You know what the Bible says in Acts 19 verses 11-20? God brought special miracles and they started seeing the power of evil spirits. So in verse 18 those who believed in Christ confessed Him, showed their deeds, and brought their curious arts and their books about Satanism and burned them...burned them. What's the biblical way of dealing with occultic junk? Burn it. Don't give it to someone, don't sell it at your rummage sale for someone else to get. Burn it.

Thirdly, not only do we cancel all occultic practices and confess Christ, we have to claim God's promises. And I want to close by just reading you Ephesians six. And you might be still in Ephesians. And I want to read to you starting at verse 11. Because we must put on the whole armor of God that we may be able, verse 11, to stand against the wiles of the devil. We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, Ephesians 6:12 says, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts in heavenly places.

How do we deal with this intrusion of demons and of all the ground and hold that they want to have in our life? We take up the whole armor of God that we may be able to withstand, verse thirteen says, in the evil day, and having done all, stand. Verse 14, stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth. The belt of truth, the implement of battle hanging from the belt, which the soldier's robe together means our honesty our truthfulness our integrity, and our sincerity, that's the belt of truth. We must be honest. We must be having integrity in our lives, and our business, and all of our financial dealings. That's the belt of truth that keeps Satan from having influence on us. If you're cheating on your taxes, or cheating on your wife, or cheating on your children, or on your folks, or on your schoolteacher, you do not have a belt of truthfulness and Satan has a ground that he can come in and influence your life.

Secondly, he says, put on the breastplate of righteousness. This heavy piece of armor enclosed the body. It means personal, daily righteousness maintained by the confession of sin. Impurity brings defeat. If you're a late-night channel surfer, if you're a magazine glimpser, if you are someone who is captivated by any impure thing, impurity brings defeat. Defeat brings demons. Demons bring bondage. Confess, forsake, put on the breastplate of righteousness - personal daily righteousness maintained by the confession and turning from sin. He continues to say, having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The soles of the soldier's feet were impregnated with heavy spike-like hobnails which gave them good footing. It's the idea of having readiness and peace of mind.

And as one of our elders preached on the other night, anxiety brings defeat. And in our lives if we're anxious, if we're anxious about the economy... Never have more people waged more money on more precarious situation than is right now in our economy. Most people are in jitters over the economy. I mean, if interest rates go this way or that way, or if the economy, or the stock market, or the real estate market, they've got everything banked on that, and they're anxious about it. How can you live in peace when your life is governed by anxiety? And anxiety brings defeat and defeat brings a ground for demons.

He continues, and he says, not only should we have the belt of truth, and the breastplate of righteousness, and the shoes of peace, but we need to have that shield of faith. And the shield was a portable door which a soldier would hide behind, and the shield served as a buffer from the flaming darts of the enemy.

And faith extinguishes all the flaming missiles of Satan. You know he's shooting them at us. He shoots an awful thought. He shoots an anxious thought. He shoots a defiling thought and by faith we can say, I have no part. You have no hold on me. I will not look on that. I will not think that. I will not allow that into my life because doubt brings defeat. And defeat brings the demonic hold on our life.

Finally, he says, take the helmet of salvation. This means the helmet of the assurance of salvation. And if you live in a perpetual lack of assurance, that will bring defeat. And God has not called us to live in that state.

Then there's some offensive equipment. Take the sword of the spirit. Memorizing the scripture, the prayer always praying, in verse 18, this includes petition at all times for yourself as well as others, and finally being alert and looking for any inroads that Satan might have in our lives.

Why did I take the extra time to talk about this, this morning? 'Cause the scriptures tell us this morning you can't come to the Lord's table if Satan has a hold in your life. You say, well, should I get up and go? No. That's why we have the time of preparing our hearts before the Lord's table. It's a time to confess our sin, whether it be the sin of greed, or the sin of doubt, or the sin of impurity, or the sin of taking the cup of demons through letting our mind be opened to the fantastical world of nothingness that is debilitating to our spiritual lives, whether it be through music, whether it be through actual occultic stuff that we just haven't been able to turn loose of. Right now, this morning, you can't partake of the cup of the Lord and still hold, clutched to you, the cup of demons.

Let's just take a moment to prayerfully, with heads bowed and eyes closed, ask the Lord to cleanse, purge, purify us. We'll take a good minute or two, and at the end of that I'd like to ask the men to come and assemble at the front and we'll continue with the celebration of the Lord's table. But just in quietness let's ask for the Lord's cleansing and purging of all of our sins right now.

Oh Father, this morning, we, your people, confess that sometimes we have been angry and sinned, and we've given place to the devil. We have been greedy and sinned and given place to the devil. We've been lustful and sinned and given place to the devil. We have been not working circumspectly, and we have let through amusements, through entertainment, through our business practices or our personal moral habits, we have given ground to the devil. And as one of your precious saints prayed many centuries ago at your table, we also say, oh Father, have mercy upon us. And according to your loving kindness and the multitude of your mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity. Cleanse us from our sins by the precious blood of Christ. May we acknowledge our transgressions, our sins that are before us, because you desire truth on the inward parts. Purge us. Wash us. Help us to know your joy and gladness. Create in us afresh and anew, a clean heart. We pray, oh Father, as we come to

this table, that there would be no unconfessed or unforsaken sin; that within each one of us there would be no cup of demons that the Corinthian people were guilty of, that we likewise could be guilty of this morning. Because we want to partake of your table joyfully and with wholehearted devotion to you. We confess and by your grace we forsake all that would keep us from coming to you clothed in the righteousness of Christ alone, having purged ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit perfect??? in holiness in the fear of God. Thank you for letting us come, out of our bondage, sorrow, and night, into the glorious light of your forgiveness. And Father, if there's any action that needs to be taken in the life of any of these that are here this morning, may they right now make a decision that they will not turn back from, to get rid of, to destroy those grounds and holds that demons can have in their lives, in any of our lives, if we do not forsake, and destroy, and turn from those areas that let him in. Make this a pure and an overwhelmingly precious celebration of your holiness and of our righteousness in Christ through his blood, we pray, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

As the men pass among you the bread, we're going to sing a song. Remember that bread is unleavened bread because it pictures what Christ was and what we must be. The Christian is to purge out all the leaven, and that's what we've been praying about this morning. And Christ never sinned. So He was the perfect picture and in Christ this morning, we're taking this picture and saying, I agree with you, oh Christ, I have turned from my sin. Let's come into His house. Gather in His name and worship Him.

You know the scriptures tell us wonderfully so that we can come with confidence before the throne of grace and mercy. God is not unaware of our frailty. And you don't have to be perfect to partake of the Lord's table. You have to be imperfect. Only sinners get saved. And only those who acknowledge they're sinners can be cleansed. And that's why it's such a privilege.

And you know it breaks my heart every time I look out and I see people who I am almost sure that they know Christ, and yet they pass up the Lord's table. Did you know there is nothing this morning that you cannot, right where you're sitting, turn from and confess and forsake? Even the sin of unbelief in Christ. You can take care of that this morning by reaching out and calling out to Him. It's a tragic thing to miss the partaking in the body of Christ and the blood of Christ in this portrait. And I hope that if you haven't yet partaken of Christ, you will. And if there's something that's withholding your partaking of Him, that right where you are, you will make that an altar and you will sacrifice that to Him and turn from it; that you'll say no to sin and yes to Jesus. Because the blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanses us from all unrighteousness and it's available right now.

And the scriptures say that the bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ? This morning this bread is absolutely normal bread, you can buy somewhere around here, 'cause someone bought it. But this morning it's marvelously a picture of Jesus Christ - the sinless, spotless lamb that took in His

own body our sin and took our sin away. And so when we eat this bread, we fellowship with Him. And the Lord said as oft as you eat this bread, you declare me. Let's partake of it together this morning.

Oh, Jesus, Lord and savior. You are all my righteousness and our righteousness and we stand complete in you if we have fled for refuge to the sacrifice of Christ. I pray that all who know you this morning will in these quiet moments confess, forsake, purge out, that they might partake. What a joy it would be if we could share the unity around this table of every saint who is here this morning, purged, and cleansed, and filled, and overflowing with joyous declaration that we're wearing your righteousness, and we're complete, and we're cleansed. Thank you for the cup - the cup of blessing. We bless your name for your sacrifice, oh Christ, for your blood poured out, for your life given, for our cleansing, for our new heart, for your new covenant, which can never be abrogated, can never be controverted. It will never pass away. We have eternal security in Christ. Bless us as we celebrate the cup together. May there be no one who is holding on to anything that they will not turn from, confess, and forsake, for Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

Someone wrote a song many years ago and as the men pass the cup among you, there's something wonderful about letting the spirit of God just have full control of our lives and to enfold us with the love of Christ. Nothing is more irresistible than the love of Christ. And we need to be enfolded and filled and overflowing with the spirit's power to make us love. Let's sing this song as a wonderful prayer of our praise to our God.

And that's because Jesus is the name that's above all names, and this morning those that know Him and all of us who are in Him can say that you're our beautiful savior. You're the glorious Lord before whom we bow. You are God with us, our redeemer who bought us, and the living word that reveals God to us. Let's sing that before we partake this morning.

What a wonderful thing it was that on the third cup of the Passover, remember the Lord's table came from the Passover, celebrated from 1446 BC all the way through 'til 30 AD for almost 1,500 years, 1,500 times and all of a sudden on the third cup, Jesus Christ changed all that tradition. And He said, this cup is the new covenant which is in my blood. The apostle Paul calls it the cup of blessing which we bless. Is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The fellowship of Christ? The blood of Christ that makes us clean from all our sins and this morning nothing can wash away our sins but the blood of Christ, and no one can condemn us if Jesus Christ has cleansed us. That's why this is a cup of blessing. That you and I can say I'm not worthy but I do have eternal life this morning. I'm not perfect, but God sees nothing but the righteousness of Christ in me. I fail, but Jesus never fails. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. Do you see why it's a cup of blessing? Talks about everything we have. And on that night our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup and He said, this cup is the new

covenant that's in my blood. Drink ye all of it. Let's do that together this morning.

And our hearts can say no less than hallelujah what a savior who has taken this poor, vile sinner, lifted us from the miry clay and set us free. Help us to ever tell the story shouting, glory, glory, glory. What a savior you are! We thank you for the cup of blessing., In Jesus' precious name, we thank you. Amen.

The men are going to pass among you and get the cups, and as they pass among you, it's interesting that I don't pick these songs, they just are on the list. And look, we have the same song we ended with last time. Isn't that a blessing? Maybe it's a good one. I think so. Let's sing the song we're going to sing for eternity, around the throne of the one who died in our place, about His worthiness. Let's sing that as we prepare to go this morning.

And now the cups are collected. Let's stand together and as we stand, I hope that you will bow and worship before the Lord. And we're going to sing this one more time as our benediction. I hope you realize that this is how we magnify our redeemer. Don't just, I mean, it's 12:13. Okay? But boy, there aren't going to be any clocks in heaven. And there aren't going to be any appointments, and dinners, and sporting activities, and amusements to distract us then. But just on the Lord's day, just push all that aside and all the imaginations that go every direction, and let your heart and my heart this morning magnify Jesus Christ. Talk to Him. He's here this morning. He's the Lord of the church. He's walking up and down. He's listening to what we say. He's examining our hearts and here's your opportunity. You've just partaken in a picture of His death for us. Let's just tell Him how much we love Him!