

OUR SACRED ORDINANCES

I. Revelation 1:4-8

A. Let's go straight to our text, an ever so potent doxology, Revelation 1:4-8 (ESV) declares: *4 John* (Son to Zebedee & Salome, brother to James, referred in tandem by Jesus as *Sons of Thunder*, a.k.a. *The disciple whom Jesus loved*; later as the *Apostle of Love*; and here, *John the Revelator...*) *to the seven churches that are in Asia* (Modern day Turkey. This includes our church family too.): *Grace to you and peace* (GK: *Charis*: undeserved mercy and love + *Eirene/Shalom*: wellness, wholeness, and goodness) *from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, (Think Sevenfold Spirit or Spirit of God in full and complete expression...)* *5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of kings on earth. (Father, Spirit, Son; as the hymn goes: "God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!") To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood* *6 and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. (Wail, mourn, with fear of our Lord's wrath and pending judgment.) Even so. Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (These are the words of God and they are about Him who saves as well as Him who will judge, and they will take us this morning to the Lord's Table, to the Bread & Cup.)*

B. The Nation of Israel, for four centuries, suffered as slaves in Egypt. God orchestrated and used Moses to deliver them from slavery. On the night before their Exodus, God instructed that an unblemished lamb be killed and its blood placed on the doorposts of each home occupied by God's people. Then in the night, God sent His angel to slay the firstborn male of every family, save those who had the blood of the lamb smeared on their doorposts. And so it happened. While the wailing could be heard through the Egyptian streets, the Children of Israel quietly rejoiced as the angel of death passed over them because of the blood of the lamb. This was the first Passover. God also instructed that an annual Passover feast be held each year commemorating Israel's deliverance.

C. At the Last Supper, called this because Jesus was becoming the True Passover Lamb---Christ instituted the First Communion, as a remembrance of what He would accomplish on the cross the next day. Jesus would deliver us from sin and death by His precious blood. And when the Day of judgment comes, the angel will see Jesus' blood on the doorposts of our hearts. On that great and terrible Day, we will experience a far greater Passover. The Bread & Cup remind us.

D. When the Children of Israel commenced their exodus, they came to the Red Sea. Pharaoh, having second thoughts and angry with Moses and his One True God, sent his chariots to slay the Israelites. But God parted the Red Sea, allowing His Children to cross on dry ground. When Pharaoh's chariots in hot pursuit started across the parted sea, God released the water, drowning the Egyptian charioteers while once again delivering His people. Baptism similarly depicts our deliverance from sin and death.

E. When a believer is baptized in water, it symbolizes, points to, is emblematic of that person identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Our Savior took our sins upon Himself, suffered the punishment for them, died, was buried, and then three days later rose from the dead. When we place our faith in Christ, forsaking our self-righteousness in exchange for His righteous record, we obediently embrace that regenerative reality by entering the waters of baptism to make a public profession of what's taken place in our heart of hearts.

F. More than once I've been contacted by someone seeking to be baptized because they believe the act alone will save them. Others take Communion believing the same. But we aren't saved by rites & rituals but by the blood of Jesus Christ.

G. In Baptism and Communion, we have two sacred ordinances that depict and convey and remind us of the Divine Events that accomplished our salvation, our emancipation, and our adoptions. But always remember, these sacred ordinances, likewise called sacraments, reflect the Salvation Event, they do not achieve it! We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone. **Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV) affirms: 8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10* *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. The waters of Baptism and the Bread & Cup point to, illuminate, depict, even dramatize the powerful and beautiful and incredible and joyfully unspeakable redemption purchased for us by Almighty God through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

H. How important is it that we partake in these ordinances? Totally important. Vital even. They were instituted by Jesus, commanded in the Scriptures, and practiced for 2,000 years by The Church. To dismiss them, or cheapen them, or avoid them is to willfully disobey the One who ordained them. Therefore, with varying modes & methods of practice, when we baptize or take the Bread & Cup, we do so with the Body of Christ Universal, spread across the globe, even as we await the Day when Christ's Kingdom is fully consummated and flourishing on the earth. These sacred ordinances are not empty rituals; participation is a great privilege given by Christ to the Church. We embrace them with faith and with joy...

*** Pray and Serve Communion...**

*** What more can I say before I send us home? Just an encore of **Revelation 1:5b-6**: "To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Revelation 1:4-8 (ESV)

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, **5** and from Jesus Christ the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood **6** and

made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **7** Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen. **8** “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment

Baptism and the Lord's Supper Explained - H.B. Charles - 9Marks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax5O20HTBgs>

What Do Baptism & the Lord's Supper Symbolize? - H.B. Charles - 9Marks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZbLSNZ9Mnk>

Aren't All Religions Basically the Same? - Dr. James Anderson - Reformed Seminary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XloeqFlf77o>

How Should We Respond to Christian Conspiracy Theories? - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upqtgcvG3sQ>

Do the OT Promises of Prosperity Apply to God's People Today? - Randy Alcorn

<https://www.epm.org/blog/2021/Apr/23/promises-prosperity>

5 Marks of Harmful Megachurch Culture - Jeremy Howard

<https://www.jeremyhoward.net/2021/04/5-marks-of-harmful-megachurch-culture.html>

Exodus 12:13-28 (ESV)

13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. **14** “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. **15** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. **16** On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. **17** And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. **18** In the first month, from the

fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **19** For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. **20** You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.” **21** Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. **22** Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. **23** For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. **24** You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. **25** And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall keep this service. **26** And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ **27** you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. **28** Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV)

26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” **27** And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

Luke 22:14-23 (ESV)

14 And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. **15** And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” **17** And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” **19** And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” **20** And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. **21** But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table. **22** For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” **23** And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

1 Peter 1:17-21 (NLT)

17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of Him during your time here as “temporary residents.” **18** For you know that God paid a

ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. **19** It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. **20** God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days He has been revealed for your sake. **21** Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because He raised Christ from the dead and gave Him great glory.

Romans 5:1-11 (ESV)

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- **8** but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 10:8-11 (ESV)

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); **9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. **11** For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." **25** In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Communion - Westminster Confession of Faith

Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; the sealing of all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to

be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as members of His mystical body.

- WCF, Paragraph I, Chapter Chapter XXIX.

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Romans 6:4-5 (NIV)

4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **5** If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.

Colossians 2:9-14 (NLT)

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. **10** So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. **11** When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision--the cutting away of your sinful nature. **12** For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. **13** You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. **14** He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. **19** For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 (NASB)

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is only fitting, because your faith is increasing abundantly, and the love of each and every one of you toward one another grows ever greater. **4** As a result, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. **5** This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering. **6** For after all it is only right for God to repay with

affliction those who afflict you, **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels **8** in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified among His saints on that Day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--because our testimony to you was believed. **11** To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, **12** so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accordance with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Quote by Martin Luther

"There should be no sacraments except those found in the Bible: I can find only two, the Lord's Supper and Baptism."

Quote by Sam Storms

"The ordinances do not impart eternal life to the believer, but they do confirm, strengthen, and heighten our awareness and enjoyment of that life. The bread and wine are means or instruments by which God quickens us to apprehend, understand, visualize, and experience the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit and his unique ministry of shining the light of illumination and glory on Jesus."

Quote by Martin Luther

"Baptism signifies that the old Adam in us is to be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and perish with all sins and evil lusts; and that the new man should daily come forth again and rise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

Quote by Watchman Nee

"Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith."

Quote by Wayne Grudem

"Our justification from sins takes place at the point of saving faith, not at the point of water baptism, which usually occurs later. But if a person is already justified and has sins forgiven eternally at the point of saving faith, then baptism is not necessary for forgiveness of sins nor for the bestowal of new spiritual life. Baptism, then, is not necessary for salvation. But it is necessary if we are to be obedient to Christ, for He commanded baptism for all who believe in Him."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"A man who knows that he is saved by believing in Christ does not, when he is baptized, lift his baptism into a saving ordinance. In fact, he is the very best protester against that mistake, because he holds that he has no right to be baptized until he is saved."

Quote by J.C. Ryle

"We ought to regard the sacrament of baptism with reverence. An ordinance of which the Lord Jesus Himself partook, is not to be lightly esteemed. An ordinance to which the great Head of the Church submitted, ought to be ever honorable in the eyes of professing Christians."

H.A. Ironside

"To the lover of the Lord Jesus Christ there can be nothing legal about baptism. It is simply the glad expression of a grateful heart recognizing its identity with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection. Many of us look back to the moment when we were thus baptized as one of the most precious experiences we have ever known."

Quote by John Trapp

"A man may go to hell with baptismal water upon his face."

Quote by Sinclair Ferguson

"We are baptized into (not merely in) the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. When faith grasps the significance of baptism it dawns on us that we have been given the privilege of all privileges – fellowship with God. We are His, and He is ours – forever! His grace does not cleanse us from sin simply for its own sake, but to fit us for His company throughout the whole of our lives. So baptism announces to us the overwhelmingly great privilege of fellowship with the triune covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. And because baptism symbolizes this, it calls us to a new life-style marked by ongoing repentance and faith."

Quote by Jay Adams

"Probably in our own, modern substitutes for (immediate baptism upon profession) – raising hands, coming forward, etc. – are the result of a felt need to do something for those who believe. It seems certain that those who believed were distinguished from those who did not. There is no evidence that the New Testament evangelistic preachers asked them to come forward, but there is every indication that they did invite those who believed to be baptized (Acts 2:38). And it seems that this was the way in which new converts professed their faith in Christ and came under the care and discipline of the church.

The late Dr. M.R. DeHaan on Baptism:

"In the early days of the church..., baptism was a declaration that the believer was definitely identifying himself with that group of people who were called Christians and were despised and hated. To be a Christian meant something. To identify yourself with those who were called Christians meant persecution, maybe death; it meant being ostracized from your family, shunned by friends. And the one act which was the final declaration of this identification was BAPTISM. As long as a man gathered with Christians, he was tolerated, but when once he submitted to baptism, he declared to all the world, I BELONG TO THIS DESPISED GROUP, and immediately he was persecuted, hated, and despised. In baptism, therefore, the believer entered into the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. A person might be a believer and keep it strictly a

secret and thus avoid unpleasantness and suffering, but once he submitted to public baptism he had burned his bridges behind him.”

Quote by Jonathan Leeman

"Baptism does not save a person, but Jesus means for His saved individuals to publicly identify with Him and His people. It's one piece of how His citizens become official. It's how they wave the flag."

Quote by Philip Schaff

"[Baptism by immersion is] the usual form of the original meaning of the Greek *baptidzein* and *baptismos*; from the analogy of John's baptism in the Jordan; from the apostle's comparison of the sacred rite with the miraculous passage of the Red Sea, with the escape of the ark from the flood, with a cleansing and refreshing bath, and with burial and resurrection; finally, from the general custom of the ancient church, which prevails in the East to this day."

Quote by Mark Dever

"Getting wet is the easiest command Jesus gave us to follow. It only gets harder from there."

Quote by Jonathan Edwards

"We ought carefully and with the utmost seriousness and consideration attend the sacrament of the Lord's Supper: this was appointed for this end, to draw forth longings of our souls toward Jesus Christ. Here are the glorious objects of spiritual desire by visible signs represented to our view. We have Christ evidently set forth crucified.... Here we have that spiritual meat and drink represented and offered to excite our hunger and thirst; here we have all that spiritual feast represented which God has provided for poor souls; and here we may hope in some measure to have our longing souls satisfied in this world by the gracious communications of the Spirit of God."

Quote by J.C. Ryle

"The benefits [the Lord's Supper] confers, are spiritual, not physical. Its effects must be looked for in our inward man. It was intended to remind us, by the visible, tangible emblems of bread and wine, that the offering of Christ's body and blood for us on the cross, is the only atonement for sin, and the life of a believer's soul. It was meant to help our poor weak faith to closer fellowship with our crucified Savior, and to assist us in spiritually feeding on Christ's body and blood. It is an ordinance for redeemed sinners, and not for unfallen angels. By receiving it we publicly declare our sense of guilt, and need of a Savior – our trust in Jesus, and our love to Him – our desire to live upon Him, and our hope to live with Him. Using it in this spirit, we shall find our repentance deepened, our faith increased, our hope brightened, and our love enlarged – our besetting sins weakened, and our graces strengthened. It will draw us nearer to Christ."

Quote by R.C. Ryle

"Do we turn away from [the Lord's Table] when it is administered? If so, how can we justify our conduct? It will not do to say it is not a necessary ordinance. To say so is to

pour contempt on Christ Himself, and declare that we do not obey Him. It will not do to say that we feel unworthy to come to the Lord's table. To say so is to declare that we are unfit to die, and unprepared to meet God. These are solemn considerations. All non-communicants should ponder them well."

Quote by Thomas Watson

"We should pray that God would enrich His ordinance with His presence; that He would make the sacrament effectual to all those holy ends and purposes for which He hath appointed it; that it may be the feast of our graces, and the funeral of our corruptions; that it may not only be a sign to represent, but an instrument to convey, Christ to us, and a seal to assure us of our heavenly jointure [union]."

Quote by William Morley Punshon

"Surely there is a fitness in the institution of the Lord's Supper as a standing memorial by which the church at large may commemorate the grandest act, and by which the heart of each individual believer may be reminded of his Dearest Friend. You, who have learned to love the Saviour, will prize His ordinance for the Saviour's sake. You who rejoice in the salvation purchased by His dying, will not fail with gratitude and faith to show the Lord's death until He come."

Quote by J.C. Ryle

"No doubt a man may be saved, like the penitent thief, without having received the Lord's Supper. It is not a matter of absolute and indispensable necessity, like repentance, faith, and conversion. But it is impossible to say that any professing Christian is in a safe, healthy, or satisfactory condition of soul, who habitually refuses to obey Christ and attend the Lord's Table."

Quote by Sam Storms

"I don't think my experience is unique when I say that I invariably find participation at the table of the Lord to be a profound moment of increased spiritual blessing. It is a means, through prayerful reflection, by which the Lord manifests His glory, love, mercy, and kindness to my religious consciousness. The Spirit works profoundly at the time of communion to awaken in my mind and to impress upon my heart the eternal significance of Christ's finished work at Calvary and His love, not merely for people in general, but for me in particular."

Quote by John Piper

"The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to receive from Christ the nourishment and strength and hope and joy that come from feasting our souls on all that He purchased for us on the cross, especially His own fellowship."

Quote by John MacArthur

"This Passover [just before our Lord's sacrifice], after 1500-plus years of Passovers, was the last divinely sanctioned and authorized Passover ever held. Any Passover ever celebrated after this one is not authorized by God. It is a remnant of a bygone economy, of an extinct dispensation, of a covenant no longer in vogue. It is vestigial. It serves no

significant purpose. Jesus here celebrated the Passover as a way to bring it to its end. The bell tolled in the upper room for the old economy. Christ ended the long years of Passover and began a new memorial feast which He begins to institute in verse 26 [of Matthew 26]. And this new feast is the feast not of the old economy but the new economy, not the old covenant but the new covenant, not the Old Testament but the New Testament, not looking to a lamb in Egypt but a Lamb of God on a hill of Calvary. So, Jesus ends the old before He begins the new. And after having drawn the curtain on the Passover of the old economy, He institutes the feast of the new."

Quote by Benjamin B. Warfield

"Grace is free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving."

Quote by Harry Ironside

"Grace is the very opposite of merit... Grace is not only undeserved favor, but it is favor, shown to the one who has deserved the very opposite."

Quote by Frederick Buechner

"Grace is something you can never get but can only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring about anymore than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"Grace puts its hand on the boasting mouth, and shuts it once for all."

Shalom in Strong's Concordance

According to Strong's Concordance 7965, Shalom means completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord.

Peace (Hebrew - Shalom)

The expression **Peace** (Hb/shalom) had a much richer connotation than the English word does since it conveyed not merely the absence of conflict and turmoil but also the notion of positive blessing, especially in terms of a right relationship with God (e.g. Num 6:24-26; cf. Ps. 29:11; Hag. 2:9; and also, as a result, the idea that "*all is well*" in one's life). This may be manifest most clearly amid persecution and tribulation; see also John 15:18-19; 16:13.

- *The ESV Study Bible*; Commentary on John 14:27, p. 2053.

Peace (Hebrew - Shalom)

This was the common Hebrew salutation used in greeting or farewell. Jesus gives it a new and deeper sense that reappears in the salutations of the New Testament letters. Jesus' peace is true reconciliation with God, purchased with His death (Acts 10:36; Rom. 5:1; Rom. 14:17; Eph. 2:14-17; Phil. 4:7; Col. 3:15). It is the supreme remedy for all fears (v 1), and the legacy Jesus left for His heirs.

- *The Reformation Study Bible*, Commentary on John 14:27, p. 1541.

Nicholas Ridley Burned at the Stake

In 1555, Nicholas Ridley was burned at the stake because of his witness for Christ. On the night before Ridley's execution, his brother offered to remain with him in the prison chamber to be of assistance and comfort. Nicholas declined the offer and replied that he meant to go to bed and sleep as quietly as ever he did in his life. Because he knew the peace of God, he could rest in the strength of the everlasting arms of his Lord to meet his need. So can we! - Unknown

The Almighty's Shade by Charles Wesley

I rest beneath the Almighty's shade,
My griefs expire, my troubles cease;
Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed,
Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.

Poem by Edwin Markham

At the heart of the cyclone tearing the sky,
And flinging the clouds and towers by,
Is a place of central calm;
And so in the roar of mortal things,
There is a place where my spirit sings,
In the hollow of God's palm.