

Sermon on John 18:11 "Christ's Cup"

When Jesus said to Peter, ... **Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"** John 18:11 (NKJV) He is not speaking of a literal cup, or of a literal drink. He is speaking metaphorically and the cup He is referring to is the cross. The Bible mentions many metaphorical "cups." Your "cup" was something you received from God, or from human beings, usually as a reward or a punishment for how you lived or choices you made. Christ's cup is the cross, not because He deserved such an end, but because He was taking the punishment we deserved. In literature, and movies, Christ's Cup (the Holy Grail) has often been portrayed as a literal cup. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade is a movie that portrays the cup in this way. However, even in the movie, though the cup is a literal cup, it still has reward / punishment connected to it.

I. Scripture mentions some dreadful cups:

12. The cup of the wicked –

⁶ Upon the wicked He will rain coals; fire and brimstone and a burning wind *shall be* the portion of their cup. Psalm 11:6

2. The cup of God's fury, the cup of trembling –

A. This cup is brought first to God's unfaithful people, Israel –

¹⁷ Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out. Isaiah 51:17

B. Yet, He brings it also on the ungodly Gentile nations as well –

²² Thus says your Lord, The LORD and your God, *Who* pleads the cause of His people: "See, I have taken out of your hand The cup of trembling, The dregs of the cup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it. ²³ But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, Who have said to you, 'Lie down, that we may walk over you.'... Isaiah 51:22-23 A

¹⁵ For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. ¹⁶ And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them." ¹⁷ Then I took the cup from the LORD's hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the LORD had sent me: Jeremiah 25:15-17

²⁸ And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "You shall certainly drink! ²⁹ For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth," says the LORD of hosts.' Jeremiah 25:28-29

3. The cup of His (God's) indignation, which contains the wine of God's wrath, a cup that is truly bottomless –

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:10-11

4. This is the cup, or at least very similar to, the one drunk by Spiritual Babylon-

And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Revelation 16:19 B

5. The cup of consolation from which the wicked are restricted – Jeremiah 16:6-7

⁶ Both the great and the small shall die in this land. They shall not be buried; neither shall men lament for them, cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them. ⁷ Nor shall *men* break *bread* in mourning for them, to comfort them for the dead; nor shall *men* give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or their mother. Jeremiah 16:6-7

II. *There are cups to avoid, these are tempting cups:*

1. *The golden cup of Babylon –*

⁷ **Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged. Jeremiah 51:7 (*the ungodly world - Romans 12:2*)**

2. *The cup of sister Samaria –*

³¹ **You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore I will put her cup in your hand.'** ³² **"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'You shall drink of your sister's cup, The deep and wide one; You shall be laughed to scorn And held in derision; It contains much. ³³ You will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, The cup of horror and desolation, The cup of your sister Samaria. ³⁴ You shall drink and drain it, You shall break its shards, And tear at your own breasts; For I have spoken,' Says the Lord GOD. ³⁵ "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, Therefore you shall bear the *penalty* Of your lewdness and your harlotry.' "** – Ezekiel 23:31-35 (*The false church – Matthew 13:24-26*)

3. *The sparkling cup – (might be a literal cup)*

³¹ **Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, *When* it swirls around smoothly; ³² At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Proverbs 23:31-33 (*stronger wine, drink that leads to drunkenness, also could apply to drugs*)**

4. *The cup of the LORD's-right-hand-against-you -*

¹⁵ **"Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing *him* to your bottle, Even to make *him* drunk, That you may look on his nakedness! ¹⁶ You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also—drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the LORD's right hand *will be* turned against you, and utter shame will be on your glory. Habakkuk 2:15-16 (*do not share drink with sinful motives*)**

5. *The cup of the Pharisees – Matthew 23:25-26; Luke 11:39*

²⁵ **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Matthew 23:25-26**

Clean outside, but dirty in!

6. *The cup of demons – 1 Corinthians 10:21*

²¹ **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. 1 Corinthians 10:21**

III. *There are also delightful cups:*

12. *David's overflowing cup –⁵ ... My cup runs over. Psalm 23:5*

A. *Hebrew hospitality included over filling the cup of a special guest. This symbolized the willingness of the host to treat his friend / guest like a king during his stay.*

B. *David is saying God's providence was beyond what he deserved, wonderful, God not only treated David like a king, He made Him a king. If we are true Christians, He does the SAME for us –*

⁹ **And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV)**

2. *The cup of salvation –³ I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. Psalm 116:13*

3. *The cup of cold water –*

⁴¹ **For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. Mark 9:41**

IV. *Yet the Greatest of All Cups is the Cup of Christ –*

¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?” John 18:11

1. *When Christ speaks of His cup, He is speaking of God’s providence, God’s will and commands for His life which He received from God the Father. When He takes the cup, the cross, He is being obedient to the Father –*
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)

A. *Christ’s cup is the cross that brings our salvation – 1 Corinthians 1:18*

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

In the cross, Christ took that cup of fury and God’s wrath that we, not He, deserved to drink!

B. *This was a dreadful cup; one which Christ would avoid if at all possible – Matthew 26:39 & 42; Luke 22:42*

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Matthew 26:39 See also Matthew 26:42

⁴² saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Luke 22:42

2. *Yet, after prayer Christ takes up this cup boldly – ... Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”* John 18:11

A. *This cup includes Jesus’ being arrested like a criminal –*

¹² Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. John 18:12 (NKJV)

B. *False accusations, connected to a false trial –*

⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. Mark 14:56 (NKJV)

C. *A brutal humiliating beating even before the cross –*

¹⁹ So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. John 19:1–3 (NKJV)

D. *Public humiliation and cries for crucifixion, from religious leaders, His own countrymen –*

⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” ⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.” John 19:5–6 (NKJV)

E. *Of course, He has the humiliation and pain of bearing the cross itself –*

²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. ²⁴ They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” Therefore the soldiers did these things. John 19:23–24 (NKJV)

F. *Jesus’ cup was full of poison, death and Hell, it was God’s judgment of sin, remember God the Father gave Jesus this cup – Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”*

¹² My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? Psalm 22:1 (NKJV)

V. *This Cup is one Christ's True Disciples share – Matthew 20:22*

²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." Matthew 20:22

1. *If the cup is Christ's cross, we are commanded by Him to take up our own crosses –*

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

2. *God's great mercies are our motivation –*

¹² I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

"It is better to take pains than to suffer pains, and to be bound by the cords of duty than with the chains of darkness." Thomas Manton

VI. *This Cup is symbolized in the cup which is used in the Lord's Supper –*

²³ Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. Mark 14:23-24

²⁰ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. Luke 22:20

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:25

Both baptism and the Lord's Supper are signs of our Covenant with God which is fulfilled by Jesus Christ on His cross. In the Lord's Supper the Bread represented Jesus' body, while the wine represented His blood.

However, these things also are symbolic of the BLESSINGS we receive from God because Jesus took the CURSE of wrath which we deserved -

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJV)

Look at my previous points:

1. *On the cross Christ took the "dreadful" cups, what sin deserved –*

A. *The cup of the wicked – Psalm 11:6*

B. *The cup of God's fury, trembling – Isaiah 51:17; :22-23; Jeremiah 25:15-17; :28-29*

C. *The cups of God's wrath – Revelation 14:10-11; 16:19*

So, we might enjoy:

2. *The cup of salvation, and cups overflowing -*

³ I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. Psalm 116:13

Drinking blood is a dreadful thing, drinking wine a delightful thing. Representing ALL the spiritual blessings we have in Christ –

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)