**The Cups of Scripture**

 A Brief Commentary

 by

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 **The** **Cups of Scripture**

*Matthew 23:25,26 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees,* ***hypocrites!*** *for ye make clean the outside of the* ***cup*** *and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is* ***within*** *the* ***cup and platter****, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

There are many **cups** in Scripture. **Cup of suffering** for the wicked *(Psalm 11:6)*, **Cup of salvation** *(Psalm 116:13)*, **Cup of consolation** (Jeremiah 16:7*),* **Cup of God’s fury** *(Jeremiah 25:15),***Cup of suffering of Our Lord** *(Luke 22:42),* **Cup of God’s wrath and indignation** *(Revelation 14:10).*

These are only part of the cups mentioned in Scripture, so we shall deal with only a few.

Most of you have heard the statement “that’s not my cup of tea.” This thought is probably taken from these Scripture references.

The Pharisees mentioned above in Matthew 23, were the religious rulers of that time. Our Lord called them **Hypocrites, and Blind.**

They were sinning themselves, and covering it up so all looked good. Therefore, He said they cleaned the outside of the **cup,** but within it was filthy with their lifestyle.

The Scribes and the Pharisees were the ones who were to copy the Scriptures and interpret them, yet they didn’t understand the truth themselves.

The **cup** mentioned in Matthew 23:25, is the **cup of their service to God**, not really clean at all. It just looked good to the people.

**The Cup of God’s wrath & indignation:**

*Revelation 17:4: And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a* ***golden cup*** *in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:*

The woman here represents the evil world empire. As we see today, God is taken out of schools, government, and most of our secular life, leaving only evil in control. This woman’s cup is a **cup of evil** the whole world takes part of, as we see in the following Psalm.

*Psalm 75:8: For in the hand of the LORD there is a* ***cup****, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, (The worst part) all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.*

*Revelation 14:10,11 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the* ***cup of his indignation****; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

 *Psalm 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and* ***God is angry with the wicked every day.***

I have heard many say “God loves the sinner, He only hates the sin.” However, the above Psalm and the following verse refutes that argument by pointing out that the wrath of God abides on the unbelieving sinner.

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

Christ did not suffer and die in vain, and if a person never comes to salvation, they shall drink of the **cup of the wrath of God**.

**The cup of suffering and death:**

*Luke 22:42: Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this* ***cup*** *from me: nevertheless not my will, but* ***thine,*** *be done.*

This was part of our Lord’s prayer to The Father in the Garden shortly before His arrest. He is not asking that He be freed from going to the cross. He is not trying to shirk responsibility for what He was sent to do. But the **cup** He is suffering is **His agony** over our sin, which He must take upon Himself. “His sweat was as it were great drops of blood.” He was near death from that suffering, and if He died there, He would not have been able to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. But He wants The Fathers’s will, so He prayed “If thou be willing remove **this cup** from me.” We see God’s answer in the Scripture below:

*Luke 22:43-44 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an* ***agony*** *he prayed more earnestly: and* ***his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***

This took place in the garden, shortly before His betrayal and arrest. Can you imagine what it would be like for us, if He hadn’t suffered the **cup** **of the cross?** If God the Father would have said “I changed my mind, I don’t want you to die for sinners after all.” Praise God; He **never** changes His mind. *Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

*John 18:11: Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath:* ***the cup*** *which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*

The events in the above verse take place immediately after Christ’s prayer in the garden, and **this** **“cup“** He is referring to here is His suffering and death on the cross.

Praise God, as a result of Christ dying on the cross for us, we have been offered the **cup of salvation:**

*Psalm 116:13 I will take the* ***cup of salvation****, and call upon the name of the LORD.*

**We also have been given cups to partake of:**

We are to witness of Him, walk before Him righteously, love our brethren, and suffer shame and reproach, all much easier than **His Cup**.

Peter and some of the other Apostles faced a **cup** **of suffering** for our Lord**:**

*Acts 5:40-41 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council,* ***rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.***

The Apostle Paul said:

*Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

**Cup of Communion with our Lord:**

A very stern warning is given in partaking of this **cup,** for sin has no communion with God.. There is great danger in attempting to partake of this solemn communion without first confessing any known sin to the Lord, repenting and asking forgiveness for it.

*1 Corinthians 11:25-29 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying,* ***This cup is the new testament in my blood:*** *this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

*1 Corinthians 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

**Also we have some cups of blessing:**

Certainly the greatest blessing is that of our salvation**,** for without salvation none of these blessing would apply to us.

*Psalm 116:13: I will take the* ***cup of salvation****, and call upon the name of the LORD.*

He calls us His sheep, and applies the following verse from the book of Psalms to us**:**

*Psalms 23:5,6 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil;* ***my cup runneth over.*** *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever*

**We receive blessings for being faithful:**

*Proverbs 28:20: A* ***faithful*** *man shall* ***abound with blessings:*** *but he that maketh haste to be rich shall* ***not*** *be innocent.*

**The blessing of being part of God’s Elect:**

*Ephesians 1:3,4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath* ***blessed us*** *with all* ***spiritual blessings*** *in heavenly places in Christ:* ***According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,*** *that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

*Psalm 65:4:* ***Blessed*** *is the man whom thou choosest, and* ***causest to approach unto thee****, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple*.

*1 Corinthians 2:9,10 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.* ***But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit****: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God*

*Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath* ***blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ****:*

**Blessings for obedience:**

This following scripture was written for the Nation of Israel,. However, the same thoughts concerning God’s instructions can apply to us as well.

*Duetetronomy 28:1,2 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all* ***these blessings*** *shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

 We as Christians shall someday suffer the **cup of death**, unless our Lord returns before that time. However, the sting of death has been removed for us by our Lord’s substitutionary death.

*1 Corinthians 15:54-57 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* ***O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*** *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

 *Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints*.

Because of what Christ accomplished for us in **His Cup of suffering**, we have an eternal home with Him, as **adopted children** into His Kingdom.

*Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together*.

**He promises us forgiveness, which is a great blessing:**

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*.

Praise God, although **our cup** may require that we suffer some shame and persecution for Him, He says “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

*Matthew 11:29,30 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

**And He promises “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.”**

*Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said,* ***I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***