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THE CUP

He was in the garden, hoping that his disciples would be praying for him, knowing that they would fall asleep. He knew what lay ahead of him, and it caused him to ***“sweat as it were great drops of blood.”*** Jesus asked God to remove the “cup,” but knew that he had to drink it if there was any hope for mankind. He asked, but then said, ***“...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”***

What was in the cup? Every sin that was ever committed. Every disease that anyone ever had. Every lie, every murder, every evil thing that you can think of was in that cup. It was the cup of death. He knew that he alone could drink it. He knew that was his assignment from the moment he was conceived and in spite of knowing all this, he drank it for you and me.

We are also given a cup. The cup is given at communion. It is a reminder of the cup that Jesus drank, but it is also a reminder that only he could drink of that cup. He drank it once and paid for all mankind’s sin.

We are also given a cup of dying too. It is the cup of dying to the flesh so that we can live unto the spirit. It is the cup that we drink of and say, “nevertheless your will Father, not mine.” When we drink of this cup, we acknowledge that life with Jesus Christ is the only life to live. It is the life that brings us new life, new hope, and redemption. It is drinking of the crucified life that Jesus said we must live. It is taking up the cup of the cross daily and saying “no” to sin.

When we drink from this cup, we join the fellowship of suffering with Christ. It took great suffering to surrender his will in that garden, and it brings suffering for us when we surrender our will. It is loss of the things of the flesh but gain in the things of the Spirit. Is it worth drinking of this cup? Yes, to know that in so doing we have followed the master, Jesus Christ.