

Drink of The Cup

Well, are we ready to drink of the cup? will we when the time comes be able to summon up the strength and the faith and the courage and also the love and understanding to even think about `the cup` let alone drink its` contents? So, what is this `cup`? Fair question, for any true Christian it should be the cup that Jesus Christ had to drink of as mentioned in **Matthew 20: 22.** and He asks...`are you able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of?...` At the moment, a lot of the bretheren of the true Christian churches of this world have been hesitating and holding the cup to their lips for years, they have been meaning to drink but courage has failed them at the last second. They must ask themselves, have they really considered that the day may not be too far away now when they will be required, by God the Father, to drink its` contents no matter what they may be? So, when the time does arrive, will the contents of our cup be sweet in the mouth and eternally bitter in the belly, or bitter in the mouth and forever sweet in the belly? Does God expect us to down the contents of this cup, at the very first thought of us doing so, or should we be calm and considerate in the approach to what, after all, is to be a defining chapter in the book of our lives, but let`s remember, having made the decision to drink then we must not hesitate. Let`s try and get some perspective on the situation, let`s look firstly at **Psalm 40: 6.** it states...`Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, my ears have You opened, burned offering and sin offering have You not required.` and now let`s have a read of **Matthew 10: 16-18.** `Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves, be you therefore as wise as serpents but harmless as doves. But beware of men because they will deliver you up to the authorities and they will scourge you in their synagogues and you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.` Does God the Father not only expect us all to drink of the cup that Jesus Christ, His Son, drank of but also to suffer ALL of the same consequences of drinking from that cup? It would appear, from the reading of the scriptures, that Jesus did not *insist* that any of His disciples would have to drink from `His` cup and thus suffer the exactly the same things as He would suffer, for instance, we have the example of James and John, which I touched on in part as the first scripture in this message so let`s have a further look at it in **Matthew 20: 20-23.** `Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee`s children with her sons, worshipping Him and desiring a certain thing of Him. And He said to her, what will you? and she asks of Him, grant that my two sons may sit, the one on Your left hand and the other on Your right in Your kingdom. But Jesus replied, you do not know what you are asking of me, and He said to them, are you able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of and also be baptized with the baptism that I am to be baptized with?` In verse 24. we can continue to read about how displeased the rest of the disciples were with James and John over this but nowhere can we read that they all then started clamouring to drink of this same cup, nor indeed, so it would appear, was this cup ever offered to them, at this time, in their turn. Nevertheless, we true christians *do* have a cup to partake of, and the ingredients of this cup are to be *mostly*, of our own making. If we manage to `overcome this world` (not necessarily always succeeding but always trying) if we can turn away from evil, resist temptation, overcome fleshly lusts and the cares and the wants of this material world, then we begin to fill our cup with wholesome and ultimately palatable ingredients which we add to daily, in other words when we finally drink of the cup we will eventually reap that which we have sown,

mostly good we would hope but we must also as a consequence of the ways of this world, and because we *have* drunk of the cup, be prepared to fall prey to the bad and unjust and corrupt laws and rulers that exist within the world. Let's have a look at **Isaiah 59: 14-15**. `And judgment is turned away backward, and justice stands afar off, for truth is fallen in the street and equity cannot enter. Yes truth fails and he that departs from evil makes himself a prey, and the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice.` We who are true, practising Christians, will need total and absolute faith in these perilous times, these `latter days` in which we now live, faith not only to drink from our particular cup but to keep the contents at a manageable level for ourselves, let's read **Hebrews 10: 38-39**. `Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them that draw back to destruction, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.` The Lord does not want us to go so far and achieve so much by filling up our cup with good and worthwhile things only to find that when the `crunch` comes, we fail, we realise too late that we have taken too much upon ourselves by thinking in the past `yes, I'm up for that, and that and that` only for us to eventually drink and then vomit all our cup's contents out. If we turn to the Lord for help in our most fear- filled and seemingly hopeless moment, He will not forsake us, so we should *never* forsake Him. **Psalm 41: 11**. quotes, `By this I know that you favour me, because my enemy does not triumph over me.` To understand this in context you should read the whole of Psalm 41. There is of course a very real sacrifice expected of us as professing and practising Christians and we must understand that this sacrifice is not just a quick one-off, never to be repeated affair, and that we should be in the process of making our sacrifice and so filling our cup, right now. What is our sacrifice then? Well, the beginning of our sacrifice starts with repentance and then trying to maintain our commitment to that repentance, this, if we do it right, cannot help but bring about a dramatic change in our lives because we find that we are constantly fighting a battle on two `fronts` as it were, not only do we have to resist Satan and his demons, we also have to overcome our own fleshly lusts and desires. It is not easy, no true Christian anywhere at any time has ever said that it was easy. Satan does not rest, and apart from a good night's sleep, neither should we. Any sacrifices that we make of our own invention will, invariably, not be seen as acceptable to the Lord. The scriptures clearly indicate the sacrifices which *are* acceptable to the Lord, so let's have a look at **Romans 12: 1-2**. `I beseech you therefore bretheren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service, and do not be conformed to this world, but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may show that which is good and acceptable and perfect to the will of God.` And we should also read **Isaiah 56: 1-2**. and **6-7**. `Thus says the Lord, keep you judgment and do justice, for My salvation is near to come and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that does this and the son of man that lays hold on it, that keeps the Sabbath day and from polluting it and stays his hand from committing any evil. Also the sons of the stranger that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, everyone that keeps the Sabbath day, from profaning it, and takes hold of My covenant.` Yes, the keeping of the Sabbath day is a sacrifice to those Christians who have to insist on not working that day. I can tell you from experience, it is not at all appreciated by employers these days who are only too quick to brand a Sabbath keeper as being `inflexible`. The Lord God no longer requires of us the sacrifice of animals and their spilt blood, no, what He wants from us nowadays is described in **Psalm 51: 17**. `The sacrifices of God, are a broken spirit and a contrite heart, He will not despise these.` So, no more `easy` sacrifice, now we are expected

to work to produce it. No more the one-off burned offering of flesh or fat or grain, which we then turn our backs on and forget about until it's time for the next offering to be made, no, the sacrifices that we are to make now are to be continuing ones, ones made of our own free will but also made with the knowledge that we make them truly from the heart. Now we should remind ourselves what the scriptures say about the human heart, let's read **Jeremiah 17: 9.** *'The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it?'* So, obviously, we need a change of heart, let's look at **Deuteronomy 10: 16.** *'Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stubborn.'* and now to **Deuteronomy 30: 6.** *'And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.'* Now this next thing that I write may appear obvious but I'll write it anyway. Unless the Lord knows you and in turn you know the Lord, how can He possibly 'circumcise' your heart? If we make sacrifices because of our faith, then the Lord will not in anyway ignore them, in fact He regards them as a binding agreement between Himself and the person who makes the sacrifice, providing of course that the sacrifice is an acceptable one, let's have a look at **Psalm 50: 5.** *'Gather My saints together to Me, those that have made an agreement with Me by sacrifice.'* So, what if the sacrifice that a person makes is not acceptable to the Lord, is that person then wasting their time? Well, yes, they may think that they do right by the Lord but they may even actually be insulting Him, we can find an example of this behaviour if we look at **Malachi 1: 6-8.** *'A son honours his father and a servant his master, if I then be a Father, where is My honour? and if I be a master, where is My respect? says the Lord of hosts to you O priests that despise My Name. And you say, Wherein have we despised Your Name? You offer polluted bread upon My altar and you say wherein have we polluted You? In that you say the table of the Lord is contemptible. And if you offer the blind for sacrifice is it not evil? and if you offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil? offer it then to your governor, will he be pleased with you or accept your person? says the Lord of hosts.'* These people that the Lord speaks of in that last scripture, instead of taking the best of their flock or their produce and offering it to the Lord, were simply obeying the letter of the law, just going through the ritual without giving any due respect to the person that the ritual was supposed to please. They were selecting all the diseased and lame animals that would have died soon anyway and all of the 'past its' best food and stale bread and offering it to God. So we have to be mindful of what we consider a sacrifice. What then is a fitting sacrifice? well, take any one of the ten commandments for example, they are all fitting 'sacrifices' for us carnally minded humans to obey but the *real* sacrifice is to keep ALL ten of them, if we read **James 2: 10.** it tells us. . . *'For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he is guilty of all.'* Being human, the best that most of us can achieve is *trying* to keep all ten of them and then realising that when we haven't, ask God for forgiveness for that failure. Another example of an unacceptable sacrifice would be that of Cain, Abel's brother, you can read it for yourself in **Genesis 4: 4-5.** But as difficult as things may become for us at times, we must never lose heart or think that we are not just good enough, remember, as soon as any one of us realises that we have committed a sin, we should instantly pray to God and ask His forgiveness. Now this can be done anywhere and at any time, for example, if the situation is awkward and in full public view you don't have to get down on your knees and pray, just be mindful to acknowledge your sin and you can give a proper apology later, in private. We must also be mindful that we cannot overcome sin or be forgiven of it without God's help and grace, and 'speaking' of grace, it is only because of it that we have any direct communication with our God at all and that by it He

is willing to listen to and forgive us our sins, let's take a look at another scripture, **1 Corinthians 15: 10.** `But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace that was bestowed upon me was not in vain, in fact I laboured more abundantly than they all and yet it was not me, but the grace of God which was with me.` So, we have a situation, does being `under grace` automatically excuse and forgive us of all sin without any of us having to give it a second thought? well, let's read what the apostle Paul has to say in **Romans 6: 15-16.** `What then, shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid. Don't you realise that to whom you give yourselves over to be servants to obey, then his servants you are to whom you give yourselves over to obey? whether to be servants of sin which leads to death or to be servants of obedience which leads to righteousness.` Many of us keep on committing the same old personal sins that we have been struggling to overcome for years, we just manage to keep them under control and then one day, whammo, too late, we've done it again. But even this backsliding can hold a grain of hope, for if we look back over the years we might just notice how much better we have progressively become at not committing those same old sins as often as we once used to do. Resisting the `sins of the world`, that is to say the sins that everybody else about us so freely indulge in and are *seemingly* getting away with, is particularly hard for many novice Christians to attain to, especially as many of these sins are condoned by society, the media and most of this world's governments. The true Christian constantly finds him or herself battling `against the flow`, especially as *TRUE* Christianity is not even recognized by the world's so-called `christian` churches. But we can take heart by remembering that our Lord Jesus has made the ultimate sacrifice to enable all of us, good and bad, to be here upon this earth up to and until this present time and we should always remember that His sacrifice came at such a great price to Himself, and that it also carries a price for us to pay as well. He did not lay down His Godly glory and then His life so that unrepentant of sin may abound without there still being a price to pay by those who commit such sin. We must, as the scripture tells us, `purge out the old leaven`, (**1 Corinthians 5: 7.**) which means we must get rid of our old bad ways and habits, and start to look at life with a new heart and mind and then, armed with this new outlook we will find it so much easier to resist and overcome sin. Remember what Jesus said about the new wine, that it has to be put into new wineskins? (**Mark 2: 22.**) well it's the same with God's holy spirit. We have to purge out all the things that are abhorrent and abominable in God's eyes but still seem desirable to our own, it's not easy, righteous self sacrifice is never easy, but righteous self sacrifice should be the main ingredient of our `cup`. Remember, God, is, God, and all that that little word could possibly signify and more, so He does NOT have to give reasons for, or explain any of His motives to the likes of us but. . . . He often does, sometimes directly but more often than not just by giving us enough time to realise that His works and concepts, such as the ten commandments are so necessary, even for our very survival. And so we find we have to fill our `cup` with good and wholly acceptable `things`, things that will please our God, our Heavenly Father, and that when the time comes for us to drink of it we will already in part know what `flavour` it will be and that we will be able to swallow all of it without vomiting it back out. When we constantly battle against sin, this battle acts as a reminder to us as to why we are fighting it, and as a consequence we cannot fail to be constantly mindful of God, and this in itself has got to be good for us, a blessing in disguise as it were. Sin certainly dwells within each and every one of us, but we must not let it feed off us, because it is a greedy eater with a bottomless stomach, it must be put on a diet and we must try to starve it to death before it kills us. God, Himself, when He came down upon

this earth in the form and shape of Jesus Christ, demonstrated to us how to overcome sin in the flesh. His `hands on` approach could not have been more totally committed to us and our seeming inability to abide by His laws and resist sin. But He showed us that it is possible because He managed to do it and it was NOT easy for Him, He even `sweated blood` because of His efforts and knowing that these efforts would eventually lead Him to a slow agonizing death on the torture stake also known as the `cross`. Let`s read **Luke 22: 44**. `And being in an agony He prayed the more earnestly, and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground` Before the coming of Jesus Christ, the way for the people to be shown and reminded of their sins was, as we know, by the offering of daily animal sacrifice. We should read all of Hebrews 10, but for now I`ll choose just one verse of it, so, **Hebrews 10: 19**. `Having therefore, bretheren, confidence to enter into the holiest (the holiest of holies) by the blood of Jesus.` We can understand from that one verse that the blood of animals was no longer required, no longer acceptable as a sacrifice capable of the remission of sin, the once and ONLY ONCE, offered blood of Jesus Christ was accepted, is still accepted and always will be accepted as the gateway for all of us to enter into the holy of holies and ask in person, before the throne of grace, forgiveness of our sins, and just like the animal sacrifices of old, it MUST be done on a daily basis. If then we have begun to `manage` our sins by continually engaging them in battle are we now perfect or at least close to being perfect in the eyes of God? Well, no, there is a scripture that informs us that even if we were to suffer for the word of God as no man had ever suffered before, but we lacked this one important attribute then it would all be in vain. We can find this information in all of 1 Corinthians 13. but for now I`ll just quote **1 Corinthians 13: 1-3**. `Though I speak with the languages of men and of angels but I do not have love then I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains, if I do not possess love then I am nothing. And if I give all that I have to the poor and even give my body to be burned but I do not have love, it will profit me nothing.` An example of this love and the forgiveness available to us if we possess it can be found in **Luke 7: 47**. where Jesus speaks to the woman caught in the very act of committing adultery, `Wherefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, because she loved much, but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.` And so at this point I`ll ask the question that Pontius Pilate asked of Jesus, `What is love?` We`ll find the answer to that question in **1 Corinthians 13: 4-8**. `Love suffers long and is kind, it does not envy and neither does it boast of itself, love is not arrogant nor does it behave unseemly, it is not selfish or easily provoked and it does not unfairly think evil of others. Love does not rejoice in evil but does rejoice in the truth. Love bears all things and believes all things, it hopes all things and endures all things. Love never fails, but whether there be prophecies, they can fail, whether there be languages, they shall cease, whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.` Some people, myself included have pondered on the lines `believes all things`, well, we are not innocent children, we have to discern between good and evil, lies and truth. What I think that Paul is saying here is that we should not be too quick to brand somebody as a liar or a dreamer just because what they say may seem outrageous to us or offend our sensibilities or even because we never did like that person, no, if we are uncertain in any way that if what has been said may be right or wrong then we should take what is being said `on board` and then go and later prove it to be right or wrong. If we take a look at **1 Thesolonians 5: 21**. it tells us. . . `Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.` As Jesus instructs us, and I shall quote it again from **Matthew 10; 16**. we should be . . . ` as

wise as serpents and harmless as doves.` So, what should we suppose that is to become of love, in these latter days, these terrible and vile times in which we now find ourselves? These times in which the people of our modern society are very rarely dragged off and physically tortured to `make` them `believe` in things that they know are wrong and contrary to that which they hold dear and know to be true but instead are indoctrinated daily with poisonous anti-Christ teachings through such instruments as the state school system and its` curriculum, false `christian` preachings from false `christian` churches and the media of this world such as television, the internet and Hollywood movies, the latter just loving to invent and `re-invent` history and then deceitfully portray it as fact. Well, Jesus Christ relates what is to happen to love for many in these latter days, for He states quite clearly in **Matthew 24: 11-12.** `And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many, and because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall become cold.` Bearing these prophetic words of Jesus in mind, what then should we suppose will see many a true Christian through these times, these times when we may well find ourselves totally isolated and alone with no family, no friends, and no bretheren left to offer spiritual comfort or support? It should of course be our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father and in turn Their love for us because nobody can ever separate us from this love as the scriptures tell us in **Romans 8: 38-39.** `For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.` Wow, so how can we possibly love God as much as He loves us? The best way to start is by following the instructions in **John 14: 15.** `If you love Me, keep My commandments.` We must also love all that Jesus and God the Father represent, otherwise how can we say that we know them? and if we do not really know them, then how can we love that which we do not know? We must also love amongst other things, loyalty, righteousness, justice, truth, our fellow bretheren and yes, those who persecute us because true love is not developed from a position of ignorance, rather it is developed from a position of knowledgeable understanding, and that most importantly includes the understanding of the weaknesses of ourselves and thus of our fellow men, their and our human failings and their and our inability to totally overcome sin. Knowing these things does not mean that we can forgive them ALL their sins outright, ONLY God can do this, but we can and should forgive them the sins that they have committed against us as individuals because if we do not, then neither will God forgives us our sins, and I`m not talking `lip service` forgiveness here, our forgiveness HAS to be from our hearts, Jesus Christ informs us of this in the so-called `Lord`s prayer` when He states in **Luke 11: 4.** `And forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. . .` So, what form should forgiveness take? should we forgive EVERYONE? that sins against us, even somebody who`s murdered a loved one? Well, yes, BUT, and a big BUT here, that murderer should NOT go `unpunished`, God`s instructions for the `punishment` of a murderer is death, it`s as simple as that, forgive them and then take them out of the equation of life on this earth as it is at this moment in time, forever. You can be sure that that murderer will NEVER kill again, this is the Lord`s way of protecting the rest of society from such vile crimes and of course it also serves as a warning and as a deterrent. You may have noticed that I put the words `unpunished` and `punished` in inverted commas, this is because we only really `deal` with people who commit crimes against God`s laws, it is of course God Himself who will ultimately meter out any punishment or reward to each and every one of us. Let me further underline how important it is to put to death all murderers, if say, I, was to forgive a murderer for killing a loved one of mine and then I where

to convince the authorities that he should live because I had forgiven him, and then that person later goes and say, murders a child, do you think that I would be held blameless by that child's family? do you think that I too should also be held responsible for that child's murder? What about the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill'? I can almost hear some screaming at me, well what about it? There is NO SUCH commandment, the commandment properly translated is, 'Thou shalt NOT MURDER'. And so, after years of struggling to keep God's laws and of trying to be righteous in his sight, we have our 'cup' and its contents before us, but are we still 'thirsty' enough to drink? Let's for arguments sake assume that we are, but doubts and reservations have arisen and even some fear, we start to wonder what exactly are the contents of my 'cup' and how has my behaviour over the years influenced the make-up of the ingredients? We must ask ourselves, is now the right time to be worried about such things? We have come to the point of having to drink so should we not now have built up enough trust in God to down the contents in one quick swallow? or will we try and figure out if there is anything within that cup that we just do not want to experience? Let's have a look again at **Hebrews 10: 38**. 'Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.' Life, and the cup that they drink of for many of the wicked of this world is sweet in their mouths but, come the day of their judgment, it will turn very bitter indeed in their bellies. Let's read **Psalm 11: 6**. 'Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone and an horrible tempest, this shall be the portion of their cup.' Likewise but contrary, the cup that we might be obliged to drink of at this present time may well be very bitter in our mouths, but later, sweet in our bellies. The cup that Jesus had to drink of was very bitter indeed, He knew this and yet He did not when the time came, hesitate to drink its contents because He knew that the bitterness would soon turn to sweetness in his belly, the sweetness of good triumphing over evil of life triumphing over death. In **Psalm 16: 5** we can read this. . . 'The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup, You maintain my lot.' and we can combine that verse with **Psalm 116: 13**. 'I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.' Question, could, as stated in that last scripture, the cup be called 'the cup of salvation' if we did not have a Saviour who had already, as it were, partaken of its contents? I think that David was able to write that psalm because Jesus, in agreement with His heavenly Father, had already, in spoken word, partaken of that cup. It was all already planned, and executed in all but physical deed. There is therefore a cup for each and every living person to drink of, and it will, for the true Christian, have to be the same cup that Jesus drank of, to ensure that individuals salvation. Certainly the cup that Jesus drank of is, for the partaker, the best spiritually to drink of, but it can also be the most bitter in the mouth. The apostles James and John both drank of this bitterest of cups and also we may assume, because of the trials and tribulations that they suffered, Paul and Peter. We know of the apostles Paul's sufferings during the years of his work as a minister of Jesus Christ because of his extensive epistles and other scriptures that describe his struggles and perils encountered in this life and we know that most likely Peter suffered a similar death to Jesus, because if we read **John 21: 18-19**. it tells us. . . 'Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young you girded yourself and walked where you would, but when you are old, you shall stretch forth your hands and another will gird you, and carry you where you do not want to go. This spoke Jesus, signifying by what death Peter should honour God. And after Jesus had spoken these words, He said to Peter, follow Me.' If we read a bit further on, we find that John, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' did, in all probability, die of natural causes. Knowing this, should we then assume that the disciple John never partook of the same cup as Jesus had partaken of? Well, no, just because we may

all drink of the same cup as Jesus Christ drank of it does not automatically follow that ALL drinkers of that cup are going to suffer a grim and agonizing death although we will certainly encounter many obstacles to overcome and troubles to bear which will provide for us the bitterness. Peter, having just been informed of his own method of death, then (not surprisingly) looks towards John, and asked Jesus what kind of death he (John) would experience, and Jesus's reply? it's in **John 21: 22**. `If I wanted that man to live until My second coming, what concern would it be of yours? you, follow Me` So, many of us I suppose WILL drink of the same cup as Jesus drank of but in the hope that we will be spared the misery of a slow and agonizing death, and there is hope, hope for us all, for as the Lord states in **Exodus 33:19**. `...and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.` It would appear, as I mentioned earlier in this message, that at this present time the lawless and the wicked are drinking from a cup the contents of which are very sweet in their mouths indeed, very pleasant, very agreeable to them, but if only they knew of the terrible bitterness that they will experience when the contents of their cup turn very sour in their bellies. Let's have a look at **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 pours out of the same, but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.` It would appear that the wicked, as it were, drink greedily and carelessly from their cup downing the sweet part of it and then suddenly they encounter a rush of foul tasting and very bitter dregs. At this point we should read all of **Psalm 73**. but I'll leave that for you to do later, for now I'll just quote **verses 3-5**. and then skip to **verses 17-19**. `For I was envious at the foolish when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death, but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, neither are they plagued like other men. Until I went into the sanctuary of God, then I understood their end. Surely You did set them in slippery places, You cast them down into destruction. How quickly are they brought to desolation, in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.` If we now turn to the book of Isaiah, we can find an `end time message` for every true Christian, we'll find it firstly in **Isaiah 51: 1**. `Listen to Me, you that follow after righteousness, you that seek the Lord, look to the Rock from where you are hewn, and to the hole of the pit from where you are dug.` and now **verses 7-8**. `Listen to Me you that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My law, do not fear the reproach of men, neither be afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool, but My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation.` and now **verses 12-13**. `I am He that comforts you, who are you that you should be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass, and forgets the Lord your maker, that has stretched forth the heavens and has laid the foundations of the earth, and have feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?` There is a lot of anger and fury in this `cup`, but if we keep our faith and stand our ground there is every chance that this cup will not pass to us to drink of as we can read on in **verses 22-23**. `Thus says your Lord, the Lord and your God, that pleads the cause of His people, Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of My fury, you shall never drink of it again. But I will put it into the hands of those that afflict you, which have said to your soul, Bow down, that we may go over; and you have laid your body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.` Let's now link that last scripture with **Jeremiah 25: 15-17**. `For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me, Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations to whom I send you, to drink it.

And they shall drink, and they shall stagger, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then I took the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, to whom the Lord had sent me.` The scriptures indicate to us quite clearly what cup we, as true Christians, should want to be drinking from, let's take a look at **1 Corinthians 10: 21**. `You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and of the cup of devils, you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.` So, bearing this scripture in mind, if we have chosen to drink of `the cup of the Lord`, we must be very aware of the responsibility that goes along with the drinking of its` contents, and we can read of this in **1 Corinthians 11: 25-32**. but for this message I will quote firstly **verse 25**. `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 you as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. and secondly **verses 27-29**. `Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and the 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 eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.` There is however, one cup that ALL of the so-called `christian` churches of this world greedily partake of, and we MUST avoid it at all costs, we can read of this cup in **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 unfaithfulness.` The `women` mentioned in this scripture is of course the church of the great false mystery religion of the Babylonian system. So which church is it in these modern times and in which city is its` headquarters? Well, what city is famous for its` being built on seven `hills`, still don`t know? try Rome, let`s read **Revelation 17: 9**. `And here is the mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains upon which the woman sits.` To sum up then, every living human soul has a cup from which to drink. Very few of the peoples of this world are aware of the make-up of the cup`s contents and of how the way that we live our lives will ultimately affect the ingredients of those contents. We should, as knowledgeable Christians, realise that the bible is as it were the recipe for the contents of our particular cup. The scriptures are full of good and wholesome ingredients but, as with any recipe, if we start to add strange and untested ingredients at the expense of omitting the good and tested ones, then we shall disastrously end up drinking not from a cup of salvation, but from a poisoned chalice.