

1953

The Rebuke and the Invitation.

I Cor. 11: 17-22.

Let me begin ~~the~~ with that part of Paul's instructions to the
Corinthians about how to observe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper ~~with the~~ which
~~part~~ we usually leave out. Let me begin, not with the invitation -
in chapter 11, verse 23; but with the rebuke on verse 17.

"When you come together it is not for the better but for
the worse. For

Here in America - I think we are more like the Corinthian
in whom Paul rebukes - than like some whom I have seen come
to the Table weeping. I remember the first communion service
I attended when I returned to Korea in 1955 after 20 years
away. It was in Haengju.

The invitation to the table is both a call to come and a command to go. Come to Christ; and go with all the world. Come and eat; ^{then} go, ~~and~~ feed my sheep. We come because we need a Saviour; we go because He ^{was sent} ~~wants~~ to ^{be} the Saviour of all the world.

^{need in the Christian chch to come together}
We ~~come~~ ^{need} here to eat and to drink. ^{Let's not spiritualize that part out of}
~~We need that~~

~~It is a temptation sometimes to over-spiritualize~~ this communion service. It was a real meal that Jesus gave his disciples at the last Supper. And it was a real meal ^{with which} ~~that~~ the early chch celebrated the eucharist. ^{I like what the Moravians still do in their "love feasts"} ~~Do you~~ remember how Paul had to rebuke the Corinthians (I. Co. 11: 27-28). ~~They~~ First because they were eating and drinking too much - and second, because they were not sharing it: "Each one goes ahead with his own meal, and one is hungry and another is drunk."

Part of our mission as advocates is to remind our beloved church here in America that we are ^{Corinthians of our day - the} ~~the~~ ^{whom Paul would have to rebuke for eating and drinking too much.} ~~the ones rebuked as we come for Communion~~ We have a lot to learn ^{about hunger} ~~for most of us have never been hungry.~~ ^{for most of us have never been hungry.} But we live in a world where ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{table} ~~is~~ ^{being} ~~drunk~~ ^{and} ~~having~~ ^{our} ~~eat~~ ^{cats} ~~too~~ ^{and} ~~much,~~ ^{dogs} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{these} ~~country~~ eat better than more than half of all the people in the world. Gandhi once said "To the poor God can only appear as bread and butter." Our mission

is to tell the poor and hungry of the world that that is precisely how God did appear. He came in the flesh, in Jesus Christ, and he

said "I am bread" "This is my body broken for you." "Feed my sheep." And if we don't share our food ~~with~~ ^{to meet the felt} ~~hungers~~ ^{hungers of the world,} they are not going to be impressed by talk about ^{the unseen} ~~unseen~~ ^{hungers} ~~hungers~~.
One reason ^{why} that devastated little child in Korea is still growing after all

of the soil.

the destruction of the war - is that in Korea, Christians share ~~not~~ their suppers, their every day supper with the poor - so that even the poorest of the poor know that they are welcome at the Lord's Supper.

And ^{here the poor and the hungry can learn that this} ~~there~~ is more than bread and wine here. ~~Here~~ This bread

is the "bread of life" - for this is the Lord's Supper, not our ~~own~~ - and this is His blood the fruit of that vine of which we are all the branches. And they that eat of this bread, and drink of this cup shall never die.

This is the deeper meaning of the Supper, and the deepest purpose of our mission.

At communion in Haepjin they wept. They wept for those they had lost in the war, ^{and} ~~but~~ they remembered ~~him~~ ^{the broken body + blood of Jesus.} they remembered the Saviour who gave His body to be broken and his blood to be shed, that ~~we~~ death might be conquered and that whosoever believes should not perish but might have everlasting life. And when the service was over they were no longer weeping -

And in that promise the Christians have found their peace and their mission. A whole continent still waiting for the good news.

Have we forgotten ~~the~~ Paul's rebuke to those who come to the table unworthily - who eat and drink, who have but do not share. They say that 88 out of every 100 people in the United States call themselves Christians - they may not act it, but they think they have it. Statistics like that lull us into thinking our mission is done. But North America is only ~~2~~ 6% of the population of the world. We're the 6% that have - how well do we share. By contrast, Haengju is in Asia - 60% of the people in the world live in Asia, - only 3% of Asia calls itself Christian. When the Christians of Haengju come out of church after communion - they weep no more. They have a purpose -

But the need! Evangelistically -

28 countries closed to missionaries.

3 great unreached blocks:

Chinese	1 billion	} All in Asia
Muslims	763 million	
Hindus	610 million	

By contrast USA has only 220 million people. And N. America is only 6% of the world's population. Asia is 60%.

More un-~~has~~ today than 90 yrs. ago when father -

And the Lord, in his commissioning of the disciples did not speak in philosophical terms, ~~about "saving souls"~~. he talked about "feeding sheep".



Lat. America	8% population -	94% un
N. America	6% "	58%
Europe	17%	67%
Africa	10%	45%
Asia	60%	3%