CALL to PRAYER - offer a prayer of gratitude for salvation the freedom we have to proclaim it

<u>John 19:28-30 – Canceled/Completed/Continued</u>

Intro - Today is a LORD's Supper SONday where we celebrate Christ's completed work by this continuing meal. Our practice has been to focus the entire service around, and in preparation of, the partaking of this sacred meal. It is a special privilege to be able to freely celebrate this ordinance. It has not always been the case in Christian history. Cancel Culture is not new, and it was brought to bear over this very issue of Communion. Many people were killed over the meaning of this meal. Last week we mentioned the corruption that happens within the visible church and the need for reformation/revival. When a corrupt church with a corrupt message is married to a corrupt state...people can be canceled... and were canceled. The meaning of this supper was so important to the reformers that were willing to be burned at the stake for the sake of the gospel. This meal and its message ought to be important for us as well and we should be very grateful for the freedoms we enjoy so we can celebrate Christ's completed work with this continuing meal.

CANCELED

- Many people were literally canceled (killed) over the issue of communion
 - o Ever heard of Bloody Mary...not the drink but Queen of England is named for
 - She burned 100's of Christians men, women (55) and children (4)
 - She earned her name
 - When she came to power as queen she imposed her Catholicism
 - The meaning of the Mass (after the prayer of consecration from the priest the elements become body and blood of Jesus under guise of bread/ wine
 - The meaning of the Mass was a mass of abominations to the reformers
 - There was no such thing as religious liberty. The mass was mandated
 - Those who opposed were marked for prison & condemnation canceled
- John Rogers was the first martyr Mary burned at the stake.
 - o He was marched past the church where he preached and his wife and 10 children
 - "Rogers went to his death as if he was walking to his wedding" (French ambass.)
 - New England Primer recorded this for all American children to learn
 - Excerpts from his poem to his family
- Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley. These two bishops were burned together at Oxford
 - Ridley- "Be of good heart, brother, for God will either assuage the flames, or strengthen us to abide it." Before fire lit said, "Heavenly Father, I give Thee most hearty thanks that Thou has called me to a profession of Thee even unto death."
 - o Latimer "Be of good comfort Master Ridley, and play the man, we shall this day, by Gods grace, light such a candle in England as I trust shall never be put out."
- These were willing died not over semantics but over the serious meaning of the Meal
 - They took the Supper seriously. We should do the same

They endured flames

we have freedom

COMPLETED

- The big fight was over the big deal of the gospel & Christ's Finished Work completed
 - Rome teaches a continuing sacrifice of the Mass
 - o Earthly priests offering the corporal body and blood Jesus..... repeatedly
- This was abhorrent & a mass of abomination/corruption to the Reformers/protestants
 - o Heb. 7:26-27

Jesus did it ONCE and it is done

- o Heb. 9:12 He entered ONCE...having obtained eternal redemption
- o Heb. 9:25-28 not offered often.... but offered ONCE to bear the sins of many
- o Heb. 10:10-14
 - Vs 10 offering of the body of Jesus ONCE for all
 - Vs 11- recurring sacrifices cannot redeem or ever take away sin
 - Vs 12 ONE sacrifice for ALL TIME.
 - His BODY is the right hand of God
 - He was right in front of them when He said, "This is My body"
 - Vs 14 ONE offering has perfected for all time
- No religious ritual can make you right with God.
 - o Only the Son of God can do that!
 - Bread and wine cannot save you. The waters of baptism won't wash sin
 - Jesus is the only Savior! His work of redemption is Finished!
- I am thankful we are free to celebrate His completed work this morning
 - o Others went to flames for what we are free to proclaim today

CONTINUED

- We observe this continuing meal to celebrated Christ's completed work
 - o As often you drink this cup you proclaim His death until He comes -1 Cor. 11:26
 - o Do this in remembrance of Me

Luke 22:19

- We remember that He drank a bitter cup so we can enjoy a sweet one
 - o John 19:28-30

Open Communion

Fencing the Tables

Self-examination

Sing "Nothing but the blood of Jesus" (158) as congregation comes to get elements

Solemn Celebration