THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS AT THE LORD’S TABLE

Any one who ever had children or grandchildren at their table at meal time can remember those times when it was not an uncommon or irregular occurrence when the family would be enjoying an otherwise very pleasant meal that one of the children would spill his or her drink or drop his or her food on the floor. Or, as was the case in our family, it was not uncommon for one of our children in particularly to fall off her chair while eating. These accidents at the table are a part of raising our children.

There are no accidents, however, at the Lord’s Table.

It is no accident that there is a Lord’s Table from which the children of God eat each Lord’s Day. The Table was always in the mind of God. It goes back as far as Genesis 3:15 when God told the old, subtle, serpent, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” The bruise to the serpent’s head would be administered by the death – the blood - and the resurrection of Jesus, His Son. The Lord’s Table is a reminder of the non-accidental death and pre-designed resurrection of God’s Lamb. There are no accidents at the Lord’s Table.

It is no accident that the Lord Jesus went to the cross of Calvary. The Psalmist of Psalm 22 prophesied it several times. The fifty-third chapter of Isaiah prophesied it. And the Lord Jesus Christ Himself prophesied it. Following the confession of Apostle Peter in Matthew 16, it is written in verse 21 that “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.” There are no accidents at the Lord’s Table. In Matthew 17:22-23 Jesus told His Apostles that “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” There are no accidents at the Lord’s Table. In Luke 18, after conversing with the rich young ruler, He turned to His twelve Apostles “…and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.’” (Luke 18:31 – 33) There are no accidents at the Lord’s Table.

In the first recorded gospel message the Apostle Peter preached that there were
no accidents at the Lord’s Table. “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know – Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.” (Acts 2:22 – 24) There are no accidents at the Lord’s Table. The body and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that are on the Lord’s Table before us are not there accidentally. They are there on purpose. Or as Peter just said, they are there “by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.”

And, it is not by accident that you and I are at this table at this time. We too have purposed to be here. As faithful and obedient disciples of our Great God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have determined to be at His Table on His Day to remember His death, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead.

No, there are no accidents at the Lord’s Table. The loaf and the cup are on the Table on purpose; and, we disciples are assembled here on purpose and for a purpose: to proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. And with this singleness of purpose we do this in remembrance of Him.