

**Song of Solomon 2: 4; "He brought me into the Banqueting House",  
Sermon # 24 in the series – "I am my Beloved's, Delivered as a  
Communion Sermon on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, by Pastor Paul Rendall,  
in the Morning Worship Service.**

As many of you know, I had been preaching through this book in afternoon sermons last year and into the beginning of this year, but I stopped in order to preach the series on the Eldership which I am still going through. This is the next sermon in the series on the Song of Solomon. And normally I would preach it in an afternoon worship service. But the subject matter of this verse is so fitting for our observance of the Lord's Supper, that I thought that I would bring it to you at this hour. The Book of Song of Solomon is so full of spiritual pictures of Christ that it is a shame that many Christian people do not make this book, a book of their deep and careful study. It is a picture book which is meant to be studied just like you would, if you were engaged to be married, and you could take a book of the pictures of your fiancée down from the shelf and open it up, and study their face and remember their love for you, and your love for them. Even so, this book of the Bible, this Song of Songs, is meant to be studied by you, the one who espoused to Christ, so that you will remember your Savior-Husband's dying love, and His living love for you. In verse 4 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter it says, "We will remember your love more than wine." "Rightly do they love you." That is; all who know Christ are right to remember His love. And they will remember it best, and they will remember it most, in their observance of what He did for them on the cross. This is the banqueting house that you and I have come into, here this morning. It is a very special place. In this house is a table, upon which are placed the rich spiritual food and drink in which we shall commune with Christ. Here we shall have a spiritual repast with Him, and we will eat His flesh and drink His blood, and we will remember that it is He that has given Himself to die for us. In the original Hebrew the words, "The Banqueting House" literally mean, "The House of Wine". It is the place which pictures our spiritually drinking together as a church having this banquet of wine before us; our remembrance of the sufferings of Christ, in the shedding of His precious blood for our sins. I will speak to you, first of all this morning, about what Christ did to bring you, the sinner, into this Banqueting House. And then 2<sup>ndly</sup> I will speak to you about what it means to be in His Banqueting House. And thirdly, when we come to the table I will speak to you briefly about His banner which is over us here this morning, which is love.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – Let me speak to you about what Christ did to bring you, the sinner, into this Banqueting House.**

"He brought me to the Banqueting House, and his banner over me was love." I hope that you will know and understand that if you are a Christian it took infinite

wisdom, matchless grace, and an everlasting covenant of special and particular love to your soul, for Christ to bring you to this place where you are today. It was no accident that you have been brought into this Banqueting House. Christ's Banqueting House is the place where you feed and feast upon all the good blessings of grace that God has purposed and planned to give you in your salvation. God's word of Purpose and His Word of Promise, His covenant, His Church, and intimate fellowship with him, can all be appropriately called the banqueting house, or the house of wine which He has brought us into. It is by this wonderful means that His saints are greatly refreshed; they are satisfied, strengthened, and exhilarated; they are encouraged, and comforted, concerning all of their fears and griefs related to their sins and the trials of this life, and the prospect of the life to come. God has been stock-piling these blessings for you as one of His Chosen ones. He began doing so, in His holy mind before the world ever began. Turn with me over to Ephesians Chapter 1, verse 3. Here we have God's word of Purpose - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself..." Now notice that your eternal salvation is a matter of your being blessed with every spiritual blessing. You can give yourself none of these rich blessings which will come to you for Jesus Christ's sake. But, blessed be the God and Father for giving us the gift of Christ. And the gift of Christ is based upon the Covenant of Redemption which was made between the Father and the Son back before they created the world. The Father chose you then. He chose you as one of His Elect and He appointed the time and the way of your conversion. If you have come to believe on Jesus it was because He chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world. He didn't simply foreknow that you would somehow come to have faith. He ordained Christ be the Savior, and He ordained all the means that He would use through the life and sacrifice of Christ in order to obtain the end; that of your salvation. He ordained that you, specifically; whom He chose and appointed, would believe in the gospel and be saved. It says so in Acts 13: 48 - "Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord." "And as many as were appointed to eternal life believed." Jesus had brought them into the Banqueting House. They had been brought into the Church of the First-born. The door of faith had been opened to them. You should know that in the counsels of eternity Jesus was chosen by the Father first, before He chose us. He was appointed the Federal Head of a new race of men and women who would be redeemed by grace. They would be purchased, bought back

from their condemnation and slavery of sin to inherit the blessings of grace and peace, forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ. There is a House of Wine, a wine-cellar that is an integral part of the Church of Jesus Christ. You and I sit in this house and drink of this wine at the table of the Lord when we gather together to celebrate the holy communion. God the Father predestined you to receive this salvation in Him and to rejoice today, and to rejoice tomorrow, and to rejoice forevermore.

Your eternal destiny was determined long before the world and time began. I do not say this to frighten you. I do not say it so that you would think that God is somehow unfair; when He chooses some and passes by others. God is never unfair in His justice. He is never fickle in His love. He is always righteous. He is always wise; He is always holy. This is proved in both the salvation and the damnation of men. If God were not perfectly righteous in His justice, He would be the author of sin, and He would be the promoter of sin. But as we read the account of man's fall, in Genesis 3, we see clearly that God is not the author of sin; man is. God is just and holy in all of His ways and His choice of who would be saved was according to His own good pleasure and purpose. In eternity, God decreed that He would create man a responsible being. Even though God created man upright, still He knew, that man would not be able to stand in His own righteousness. Left to Himself, God knew that he would fall into sin. So He devised the plan which would bring Him the greatest glory; and plans that would bring to the people of His purpose, this great salvation. If all men were saved, then God's justice would not have been shown forth as perfect. All sin in any person deserves eternal punishment. Therefore it is the Lord's mercy that any are saved at all. If all men perished in their sin God would not be seen as compassionate and merciful. But God devised a way, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in which He could be just, and the justifier of the one who believed in Jesus Christ. He would satisfy His own strict justice, and He would thereby be merciful and gracious in saving those whom He would set His love upon. Are any of them worthy of eternal life? No. But God, in His wisdom and His love, purposed that not all men and women should perish, but that He would save some, and make them everlasting monuments of His grace. This is predestination unto life. This is His word of His Purpose which we find in the Scriptures concerning His covenant of Redemption. God is not ashamed of the doctrine of Election. Look again at Ephesians Chapter 1, verse 3. You can see in the placement of these verses that God sets the doctrine of Election right out in front. It says, "He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world." Was He wise in His choice? Look at verses 7 and 8. "In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence. Will you not give Him thanks today that He is wise and prudent in the way that He saved you, and in the way that He makes His grace abound toward you in Christ. Men and women were created for His own good pleasure, and not their own. If the first man Adam and his wife Eve were to be expected to obey the

one commandment that God gave to them in the garden of Eden, and they did not; if God appointed Adam to be the Representative and Federal Head of our whole race, and He did not stand in His original righteousness; then it would be a most just and righteous thing for God to condemn Adam, and all of his descendants together with Him, to suffer everlasting punishment for sinning against such great goodness and such great light. They were placed in an ideal situation in the garden, at the Beginning of the World. They were told that they could eat freely from all the trees of the garden except one; and they chose the one. And still, in mercy, they were shown that God had a word of promise for them. Genesis 3: 15 – "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 Seed being referred to here as "her Seed", was Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the Word of promise. God had ordained the perfect test of man's free will, in his being commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Adam failed and he fell. But God's word of Purpose and Promise were right there to catch Adam when He fell. And His purpose and His promise come to us today when we come to know that our sin would be punished forever, as well, were it not that we believed in Jesus. God knew when He created man that Adam, left to his own free will would not be able to stand in his original righteousness, but he would fall. God knew that sin would enter his nature, and man would die spiritually in a moment and by his sin that Adam would pass that sin on to all of his posterity. But God also knew what He intended to do in mercy to bring His people to the banqueting house. God knew that His only-begotten Son would stand in His righteousness. God knew that His decree of man's being justly punished for his sins would stand, but He also knew that He had tremendous mercy in store for those whom He would specifically choose to obtain it. That plan would be to give His Son Jesus Christ as a covenant to all the chosen people.

Turn over to Isaiah Chapter 42 with me and you will see this how Christ brings us to the Banqueting House. "Behold!" "My servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delight!" God is not talking about you beloved, when He speaks about His Elect One. He is speaking here about the Lord Jesus, His Beloved Son. "I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles, He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street." "A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law." "Thus says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who give breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: I the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house." "I am the Lord, that is name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to graven images." You see, in order to be brought to the banqueting house, we had to be

freed from the prison of the guilt of our sin, and our bondage to sin. We were prisoners sitting in darkness of the prison house. But Christ was made by God a covenant to the people to fulfill the purpose of the Father's word and the promise of the Father's word. Do you see how the table is set? The Lord Jesus gives us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that we might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He may be glorified."

**Now Secondly - I want to speak to you about what it means to be in His Banqueting House.**

Turn with me to Isaiah 25: 1. "O Lord, You are my God." "I will exalt You." "I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Verses 2-6, which follow, are a prophecy of the destruction of the city of Babylon in reference to the Old Testament times, and also the destruction of the New Testament Babylon, Rome, in our own times. But look at verse 6. "And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees." "And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations." "He will swallow up death forever and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. "And it will be said in that day: 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.'" "This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." You can see here from these words, that to be in Christ's Banqueting House means that you will praise God for all that He has done for you in Christ. He has done wonderful things. He has been faithful to His covenant and to His promise to you as a sinner. He has sent Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life to you so that you could obtain eternal life. You can now call God your God. You can now call Him Father because He has adopted you, as a son or a daughter, to Himself. You now perceive and can see the glory of God's grace being extended towards you in particular, because of what Christ has done on the cross. And you now will exalt and magnify the name of the Lord for having prepared such good and satisfying things for you, that you might spiritually eat and drink and be saved from your sins, and be satisfied by His grace. We are given here the picture of what Christ's Church, which is called a mountain in these verses, will partake of in the times of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There will be provision of spiritual food for all of God's Elect, not just for those chosen by God from among the Jews, but also for those whom He would choose from among the Gentiles; the Lord of hosts will make for all people; that is, all the people who believe in Jesus Christ, a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees."

The choice pieces are the meat of the doctrines of the grace which come to you through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. He is the fulfillment of the ram caught in the thicket that Abraham offered up to God as a burnt offering

so that he could pass the test of faith when he was called upon. Abraham did not have to go through with offering up his only son in the final analysis. But our God offered up His Son as a sacrifice for you so that you could be freely given all things related to the forgiveness of your sins and having eternal life. The Lord Jesus is the fulfillment of the offering of the bull of the burnt offering of sacrifice which the children of Israel offered unto God; a male without blemish. They offered the bull unto God of their own free-will, one who be a substitutionary atonement for their sins. You have come here to this table today to offer up praise to God for the sinless sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who so freely and of his own free-will offered Himself up to God so that you would not have to pay the punishment for your sins. The priest, Aaron, in that day "killed the bull before the Lord" it says in Leviticus 1: 5. He and his sons would bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that was by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. He would skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces, and lay it on the altar. But God the Father made our Lord Jesus Christ both the altar and the sacrifice for our sins, and had His only-begotten go to the cross. Hebrews 10: 5 says, "Therefore, when Jesus came into the world, He said, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me." "In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure." "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.'" "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Christ's broken body on the cross is the "feast of choice pieces" which brings us grace as our food. His blood shed on the cross of Calvary is the blood of the New Covenant; it is the wine on the lees well-refined which we sit down to drink. We know that the veil of our sinful blindness has been taken away from our heart. We know that that the guilt of sin that plagued our heart has been removed. We know that even death will not have a sting for us when our time comes to die. We know that God will wipe away all of our tears when Christ returns. Will you not be glad and rejoice in His salvation as you come down now to the front and sit at His table? This is His Banquet House and He has brought you into it.

**And then 3rdly – Now that we have come to the table I will speak to you briefly about His banner which is over us here this morning, which is love.**

A banner is a piece of cloth hung on the top end of a pole or between two poles. And in military in days of old it had the name of the general or king that that army was fighting for, on it. A banner may have a coat of arms on it; it may have a message on it. When it is carried by a standard-bearer, the people rally around it, and it sends a message to all those who encounter the band that are with it. It usually sets forth in symbols or words, the cause and loyalties of those who are with it. Christ has enlisted you and I in His holy army. But His banner over us is love. It was by His great love for His Father, and His great love for us, that He was zealous for our salvation, and zealous to overcome, defeat, and destroy all of our enemies; sin, death, Satan, and the World. We who were sinners needed

righteousness and strength. In Psalm 45, verse 1 it says, "My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition to the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." "You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever." "Gird Your sword upon thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty, and in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things." "Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; the peoples fall under You." This is the cause that Christ fought for, on our behalf, and won the battle. He was true when we were false; He was humble when we were proud. He was righteous when we were unrighteous. But it was because of His love, that He gave Himself for us. That was, and it is, the banner over us His people. He was crucified because of our weaknesses. He was raised for our justification. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." He bore all this for our sakes, out of love.

What should be our response? I think that it should be the same as the Apostle Paul in Galatians 2: 20 – "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Let this taking of the Supper strengthen your faith to live for Him. To live in such a way that you will triumph over your fleshly lusts which war against your soul. To live in such a way that you will triumph over the World; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the boastful pride of life. To triumph over the Devil who is trying to get you to fall into God-dishonoring sins of various sorts; foolishness, pride, selfish ambition, envy, jealousy, contention, covetousness, and sensuality. You will triumph when you love Christ more than these sins. And you will love Christ more when you remember what He did for you in the way that He lived His life, and in the way that He laid it down for you. Ephesians 5: 2 says – "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." His banner over us is love. Let us rally around that standard.