

Thought for the Day 25th September - John Reed

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

We read this passage (or sections of it) when we take communion. It reminds us of what communion is about, and with what attitude we should participate. There's one particular line that we *don't* usually read in the context of communion, and that's in verses 31-32: "But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world."

"If we judged ourselves truly ..." What Paul is saying is that, left to our devices, we tend to judge ourselves lightly. We give ourselves a pass mark, when in fact a more objective judge might be less forgiving. Especially when that judge is God.

I thought of this when I read the news story about the federal government's purchase of land next to the new Western Sydney Airport that was later valued at \$3 million for a staggering \$32.8 million (that's \$29.8 million plus GST). Making it look like an even worse deal, the previous owners are now leasing the land back from the government at a rate based on another valuation of less than \$1 million – a deal which also requires the government to build a \$10 million underpass to the property.¹

Now, I'm sure there is a lot more water to pass under this bridge. There is an investigation under way, and it may yet show that things are not as bad as they seem when presented the way they are in this report.

But you see, there's *already* been an investigation. An investigation that cleared the officials who made the purchase of any wrongdoing.

The only issue is ... it was those same officials who conducted that investigation. As the chairman of the Centre for Public Integrity, former NSW Supreme Court judge Anthony Whealy, QC, is quoted as saying: "Those people who were charged with acting unethically then conducted a review into themselves and found they acted appropriately."

We shall see – no doubt some time down the track – what the outcome of this fresh investigation is. But here's my point. When considering our personal lives, our faithfulness and honesty and integrity, we tend to do what those officials did: conduct a review into ourselves and clear ourselves. However, there is another investigation, another judge: God.

In the light of that knowledge, we should examine ourselves more closely (v. 28), recognise and address our unworthiness (v. 27), and eat and drink having repented and trusting and finding forgiveness in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus who died for our sins.

¹ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/they-reviewed-themselves-new-investigation-into-33-million-land-deal-20200924-p55yyu.html>