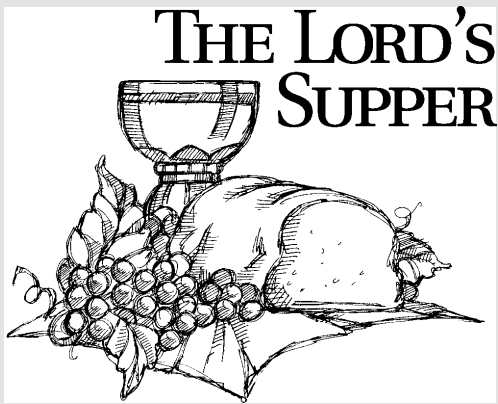


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15

The Lord's Supper

“What’s the Importance of the Lord’s Supper in Your Life?”



One of the ordinances that God has instructed you to keep is that of the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper signifies many spiritual truths that apply to you as a Christian today. Although it does not play a part in your salvation, its importance is significant in your life as a Christian.

LESSON 15

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the Bible teachings about the Lord's Supper, its importance and the attitude with which it should be celebrated.

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INTRODUCTION

Just before Jesus' death, He shared with His disciples in what we call the Last Supper. It must have been a special time for these men, especially after His death—a precious memory tucked in their minds which would, no doubt, remain with them for years to come. It was a reminder of Jesus Christ whom they had trusted as Savior, and had given their lives to serve.

Under the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul the Apostle gave instructions to the church regarding participation in the Lord's Table.

**“...this do in remembrance of [me]...
As oft as ye partake...”**

Thus, the Lord's Table became an ongoing practice of the church to remind themselves of Jesus Christ whenever it was celebrated.

Yet, today, many different teachings have emerged with regard to the Lord's Table, also known as communion. Many believe it imparts salvation or special merit with God for partaking. Just about every religion has a teaching with regard to the Lord's Table.

Have so many views come about because the Bible is unclear about communion? Or, have some added to or forsaken what the Bible teaches?

In this lesson we will study not what “churches” teach, but what Jesus and the Bible taught about communion. We may be surprised to find it's simple and clear.

Discipleship—The Lord's Supper

The account of the Last Supper is recorded in three of the Gospels. Please look up the following passages and read the accounts.

Matthew 26:26-30

Mark 14:22-26

Luke 22:14-23

1. After reading these passages, summarize briefly what happened at the Last Supper.
2. Are these three passages in agreement with each other or are there inconsistencies?

Now, read carefully I Corinthians 11:23-26.

3. Is this passage in harmony with the events recorded in the three Gospels?

Yes

No

Consider three statements:

- ** The elements used by Christ (bread and grape juice) pictured His body and blood.
- ** The Lord's Supper itself portrayed the work of Christ on the cross.
- ** The primary significance of communion is not seen in partaking of the elements, but experiencing what they represent.

Would you agree with these statements?

Yes

No

THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S TABLE

Purpose #1: The Lord's Table is a time for the Christian to look at the past.

1. In I Corinthians 11:24-25 these statements are given:

“This is my body which is broken for you.”

“This cup is the New Testament in my blood.”

When was His body broken and His blood shed?

2. In I Corinthians 11:23-26 the phrase “in remembrance of me” is used two times. What are you to remember?

3. When is saving grace imparted? (Check one)

_____ When you trust Christ as Savior?

_____ When you partake of communion?

4. The Lord's Table, then, is a time for two things:

* To remember Christ's work on Calvary.

* To remember your salvation, the result of Calvary.

Purpose #2: The Lord's Table is a time for the Christian to look at the present.

I Corinthians 11:26 says, "For as oft as you eat this bread and drink this cup YOU SHOW THE LORD'S DEATH...."

1. Participation in communion, then, is a public proclamation declaring what?
2. Communion does not impart grace. Rather, it proclaims your identification with Christ through salvation.
3. Communion is the celebration of your present relationship with Christ.
4. Read I Corinthians 11:28-31. What does the Bible demand of your life as you participate in communion?

Communion, then, is the present

- * Celebration of your relationship to Christ.
- * Proclamation of the death of Christ.

**Purpose #3: The Lord's Table is a time for the
Christian to look to the future.**

1. I Corinthians 11:26 says that you are to proclaim Christ's death until when?

2. According to verse 26, communion points forward to what event?

CONCLUSION

The Lord's Table is special for the Christian because of the relationship to Jesus Christ. As we partake in communion, we should remember the purpose of our participation.

PARTICIPATION IN THE LORD'S TABLE

The Bible sets down some basic requirements before one can participate.

Requirement #1: Salvation

1. Read Acts 2:41-42. What was the first thing these people did?

2. According to John 3:16-17, what is the need of people?
(check one)

_____ Partake of communion?

_____ Receive Christ as Savior?

Communion in the Bible was shared with only people who had trusted Christ as Savior—Christians!

Requirement #2: Obedience

1. According to Acts 2:41-42, what was the second thing these people did prior to the breaking of bread?
2. In Matthew 28:19-20, what were they to do with those who trusted Christ?
3. Baptism is the first step of obedience after a person is saved.

Yes or No

4. If an individual has not followed the Lord in baptism, is that one walking in obedience?
5. Read again in I Corinthians 11:27-31. State what you are to do prior to the Lord's Table.

6. What does I Corinthians 11:29 say regarding the Christian who is disobedient and partakes of the Lord’s Table?

It is vital that we are saved and walking in obedience to God’s Word as we participate in the Lord’s Table.

CONCLUSION

Communion is a continual reminder of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us till He comes for us and all other Christians.

A common saying is “Out of sight, out of mind.” Christ knew our tendency and made provision for us so we never forget what He has done for us.

Memory Verse *I Corinthians 11:27*



Lesson 15

From the principles taught in this lesson, we should be able to understand that the following teachings are **wrong** and why:

1. The Lord's Table, or communion, has power to save.
2. The elements of the Lord's Table are transformed into the body and blood of Christ.

Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.

