

THE LORD'S SUPPER

A Study of Our Lord's Memorial to His Death on the Cross

Lesson Ten

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25*

Lesson Verse: *1 Corinthians 11:26*

*"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do **shew** the Lord's death till he come." 1 Corinthians 11:26*

I. Introduction

- A. One of the memorials that Christ has instructed Christians to regularly practice is that of the *Lord's Last Supper* with His disciples.
- B. This event is supposed to be regularly remembered by Christians as a Church, and is called an 'ordinance' or commandment (**1Cor 11:2**) – it is mandatory for Christians to honour and remember our Lord's death on the cross.
- C. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the Christian with what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper, its importance, and the attitude with which it should be experienced, and conducted.
- D. Before we go any further, read through two portions of Scripture: **Matthew 26:26-29**; and **1Corinthians 11:23-33**.

II. The Importance of the Lord's Supper

- A. The Lord's Supper powerfully focuses our lives back on what it cost for people to be forgiven - the substitutionary death of our Saviour in our place.
- B. **1Cor 11:26** says that when a Christian eats the Lord's supper, "...ye do shew the Lord's _____ till he come." So, its primary importance is to **remind** us of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Luke 22:19** says, "...this do in _____ of me." It is intended to bring our attention back to what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- C. This *Remembrance Supper* has many spiritual reminders that are supposed to affect our lives now that we are saved:
 1. That Jesus Christ's death was for us,
 2. That the price of our sin was Christ's suffering on a cross,
 3. That Jesus submitted to the crucifixion because there was no other way to satisfy the justice demanded for the sins of the whole world,
 4. That we should not now live the way we used to because sin has not only been paid for, but defeated on the cross!

III. The Elements of the Lord's Supper

- A. It all started with the **Passover Meal** (**Exodus 12:1-8**)
 1. God defeated the mighty Egyptian Pharaoh not with an army, but by His people simply trusting in the death of innocent lambs in their place!
 2. If a household did not kill a lamb and put the blood of that lamb on the outside doorpost of their house, God's judgment would fall on that house and their firstborn would die!
 3. But if a household believed God's warning, and put the blood of their little lamb on the doorposts of their house, God's judgment would PASS-OVER them.
 4. That night, all of Egypt experienced judgment and death, while God's people, who had just put their faith and trust in a lamb, walked out free from slavery!
 5. But that was not the end of the story!
 6. The Passover lamb of **Exodus chapter 12** pointed people's attention to a **future** Lamb who would take away the " _____ " (**John 1:29**).

B. The Lord's *Remembrance Supper* is the fulfilment of the *Passover Supper*.

1. The Passover Supper had the following foods in it (Matt 26:20,21; Ex 12:18-20):
 - a. Roasted lamb meat
 - b. Bitter herbs – like horseradish
 - c. A dish of sour vinegar sauce
 - d. Unleavened loaf of bread. Plain, flat bread – like a tortilla – not white and fluffy
 - e. Unleavened grape juice to drink. Plain, fresh tasting, **unleavened wine** – it was only grape juice, not alcoholic
2. The Passover supper focused everyone's attention on the lamb that gave its life so that God's judgment would "pass over" them.
3. Jesus came to be the _____ of God to take away the sins of the whole world through His death on the cross (John 1:29; Luke 22:7-20).

C. Why was everything unleavened?

1. In the Passover meal there was to be no _____ (yeast) used at all (Ex 34:25).
2. Why? Because LEAVEN is a picture in the Bible of _____ (1Cor 5:6-8), and Christ has no SIN in Him (1John 3:5).

D. At Jesus' last supper with His disciples, he took these **TWO** foods, and taught them to remember His death with them.

1. **The unleavened loaf of bread pictures His body.** We are told in 1Cor 11:24 that Christ's body was _____ for us. Not only are we to remember His death, but also His **suffering**. The breaking of bread in the supper **pictures** the breaking of His body! It does NOT *continue* the same sacrifice for there is NO further sacrifice needed (read Hebrews 10:5-14; and John 19:30)!



2. **The unleavened cup of wine pictures Christ's blood.** The wine (grape juice, or new wine) pictures His _____ (1Cor 11:25), which cleanses us from our sin and saves our souls. His blood is **pictured** (not *recreated*) in the cup from which we drink during the memorial (Rom 3:24,25). It was shed for us for the remission of (the taking away of) our sins (Heb 9:22). So, fresh grape juice is used because normal fermented wine is *leavened* and alcoholic, while new wine (grape juice) has not fermented but only has the flavour of the grapes.



E. Some religions teach that the body and the blood of Christ are *really consumed* when eating the Lord's Supper, but that teaching is definitely not Scriptural.

1. Jesus taught an almost entire chapter on His body and blood being sacrificed for the sins of the whole world (John 6:27-35, 41,42, 47-63).
 - a. The Jews had asked Jesus for literal *bread* to give them eternal life (6:34).
 - b. So Jesus explained in John 6 that the manna God gave to the Israelites in the wilderness did NOT give anyone eternal life (John 6:49), but that now God has given the world a *better* "manna" (6:30-34,50) – the better manna was Himself.
 - c. Just as the Israelites accepted the manna in the wilderness as a gift from God, and gathered it and ate it to live physically, people now need to accept the Bread of Life to live eternally!
 - d. Jesus said His words are life giving and need to be believed (John 6:47).
 - e. Jesus knew however, that they would not believe His *words* (John 6:35,36) so He purposely turned them away with a parable since all they wanted was food for their belly, not for their soul (John 6:41-44,66).

2. When Jesus spoke of “*eating His flesh and drinking His blood*” in [John 6:53-63](#), He was very careful to explain that He was NOT speaking literally.
 - a. [John 6:63](#) tells us that the words that Christ was speaking “*are* _____.”
 - b. People were not to physically eat *Him*, but rather partake of Him *spiritually*, which means accept His finished work on the cross like you would a free meal.
 - c. The Jews were commanded **never** to eat _____ ([Lev 17:11,12](#)), for the life of the flesh is in blood. Only pagans ate blood in the worship of their false gods.
 - d. So, what Jesus said confused all the Jews ([John 6:52, 60](#)) who were trying to understand what Jesus said literally and physically (eating His body) which was contrary to Scripture. Or Christ is teaching cannibalism!
 - e. This was not the only time that Jesus used “figures,” or examples, or word pictures to explain His work on earth:
 - 1) Jesus compared Himself to LIVING BREAD, and yet His physical flesh profits no one in any way ([John 6:63](#)).
 - 2) LIVING _____ ([John 4:14,15; 6:35; 7:37-39](#)).
 - 3) He also referred to Himself also as “*the* _____” ([John 10:7,9](#)), and yet he was not a *literal* door with hinges, but the WAY through which anyone can get to heaven ([John 14:6](#)).
 - 4) When Jesus told Nicodemus to be “*born* _____”, he thought Jesus was telling him to go back into his mother’s womb and be born all over again *physically*! Yet Jesus was talking about another birth – a spiritual birth!
 - 5) So, many things that Jesus spoke about were not physical, but spiritual.
- F. So, at the cross, there lays a GIFT ([Rom 6:23](#)), and that is all. There is no *flesh* and *blood* waiting to be eaten. But there is **eternal life**, which simply has to be *received* into your HEART ([John 1:12,13](#)) by faith ([Eph 2:8,9](#)) as if accepting a piece of bread!

IV. Who Can Participate in this Remembrance Ceremony?

- A. The people Paul was writing [1 Corinthians 11:20-26](#) to were *believers*.
- B. Lost people are not included at the Lord's table because they have never experienced the free gift of salvation that the Lord's table is *picturing*. The death and sufferings of Christ would have no real significance to them.
- C. Not only is it restricted to true Christians, but to “clean” or “worthy” Christians who have confessed sins and things that are displeasing to God, since it was our sins that crucified Jesus ([1Cor 11:27-34](#))!
- D. That is why there is a time of deep reflection on our way of life, and any sinful habits that we may be holding on to, that will stop us from honouring Jesus’ death!
- E. It would be a mockery if someone tries and remembers an event that has no meaning to them - like remembering the day you got married, when you never got married!
- F. Only for Christians who are worthy - serious about Jesus being Lord in their life
 1. Unworthiness - All of us are unworthy of God’s love. But there are Christians who are “unfit” as servants of the Lord. Living for the world, and not for Christ
 2. When you treat Christ flippantly, or without fear, you are acting just like those who CRUCIFIED Him!
 3. God wants every Christian to participate - but not when they are not serious about their Christian life
 4. Are you living a lie? Calling yourself a Christian, but not honest? not saved yet? Don’t eat until you settle your own relationship to God!

- 5. Are you living in sin as a Christian? Rejecting what you know God has said, and holding on to something that you know is against God? Don't eat unless you are willing to turn away from it!
 - 6. Are you serious about the Lord? Or, is He just a convenient Genie that you turn to for impossible situations? Become His servant!
- G. But every Christian ought to use this time as an opportunity to get their life cleaned up right then and there, and then start fresh for this week - walking with the only God and Saviour Jesus Christ

V. How is the Lord's Supper to be Performed?

- A. There are no explicit instructions on how to perform the Lord's supper other than presented in **1Corinthians chapter 11**. No fancy rituals, or mystical sayings are involved. There is no transformation of the bread and wine! It is only a remembrance.
- B. Simply, unleavened bread and unleavened wine (grape juice) are to be eaten and drank in the worship time of your local church (**Act 2:42; 20:6,7**) for the purpose of **remembering** Christ's substitutionary death *in your place* so you could be completely saved from the punishment of your sin!

VI. As a Christian, How Should I Approach the Lord's Supper?

- A. **With fear and trembling.** Paul does rebuke the Corinthians for taking this event lightly in **1Cor 11:17-22**. They had turned it into some kind of a feast for satisfying one's hunger rather than making it a time of remembering the Lord's death. This is a very sacred time, and should be approached with a sacred attitude.
- B. **With desire.** Jesus Christ in **Luke 22:15** _____ to eat the Passover with His disciples. Although the Lord's table should be approached with reverence, a believer should look forward to the Lord's supper as a way of bringing his attention back to what Christ had done for him.
- C. **With a clean heart.** The Bible in **1Cor 11:28,31** tells us to _____ and judge ourselves when we partake of the Lord's supper. This self-examination is to make sure that our relationship with God is right. God chastises those that partake who do not forsake their sin (**Prov 28:13**). The Lord's supper is a *reminder* that our _____ was the reason for Christ giving His life for our salvation from sin, and God wants us to be clean spiritually when we partake of the Lord's supper.
- D. **With good understanding.** There are **two** "tables" listed in **1Cor 10:20,21**. One is a SACRIFICE to _____, and the other is a "communion" (**10:16**) or "fellowship" with Christians who regularly *remember* Christ's death. So many people in their 'churches' participate in a mockery of the Lord's Table, and are actually worshipping devils. No Christian has any business doing that.

VII. Comparing the Lord's Supper with the Eucharist

The Lord's Supper	The Roman Catholic Eucharist
Is a <i>memorial</i> of Christ's death	Is a re-sacrifice (Christ is killed again)
Uses simple unleavened bread	Uses a fancy 'graven' (IHS) wafer
Uses simple unleavened grape juice	Uses intoxicating, alcoholic wine
Presented by Bible believing pastors	Presented by Bible rejecting priests
Is a reminder of what saved us	Is part of the process of salvation
Called communion , and Lord's Supper	Called the Mass
A simple reminder	A fancy ritual and ceremony

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