



THE LORD'S SUPPER

INTRODUCTION:

All that is said in the New Testament on the subject of the Lord's Supper is contained in the following Scriptures:

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| Matthew 26:26-29 | Mark 14:22-25 |
| Luke 22:16-20 | Acts 2:42 |
| Acts 20:7 | I Cor. 10:16-21 |
| I Cor. 11:23-34 | |

When the leaders of the Restoration Movement (the movement to restore New Testament Christianity) began talking about restoring "the ancient faith" the matter of the Lord's Supper received considerable attention. At first it brought forth disagreement. These questions were raised: "How should it be kept?" "What does it mean?" "When should it be kept?" and "Who should partake?" These questions were all answered as they thoroughly studied what God has said on the subject in the Bible. In this lesson we will seek to follow the same procedure.

I. THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

- A. The Institution of the Lord's Supper can be found recorded in Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:16-20; and by Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-34.
 - 1. It was the _____ night before His crucifixion.
 - 2. He was in an upper room of a house in Jerusalem celebrating the Jewish Passover Feast with His Apostles.
 - 3. During the Passover meal, there were four cups of wine, which they drank ceremonially. Following one of these, presumably the _____ cup, was the time Jesus chose to give the Lord's Supper.

DISCOVERING SERIES

B. Great emotion must have been present as Jesus spoke of this remembrance of His death, burial, and resurrection.

1. Matthew records:

“While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.’”

2. The disciples did not drink of that fruit of the vine again until they were in the Kingdom.

a. They did so following the Day of Pentecost when they came into the church, God’s Kingdom on earth. Jesus was then in heaven and communed in spirit with every disciple who gathered for His Supper.

If Jesus instituted the Supper, then who is actually the one doing the inviting? _____ Who is the one that is being rejected if we fail to attend? _____

What are the Scriptural names given to the Supper and what is the meaning behind each one?

◆ Acts 2:42

◆ Acts 20:7

◆ I Corinthians 10:16

◆ I Corinthians 10:21

◆ I Corinthians 11:20

What term is commonly applied to the Supper today but is actually a description of what takes place rather than a name given to the Supper (I Corinthians 10:16)?

What two simple elements are used in the Lord's Supper?

What is the significance of these elements (Mt. 26:26-28)?

1. Loaf:

2. Cup:

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:

A. We partake of the Supper because:

1. It is a _____ from the Lord.
 - a. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 11:24 & 25 that Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me."
 - b. Although this is the first mentioned, it should be the least motivational reason for observing the Lord's Supper. We shouldn't partake of the Supper BECAUSE WE HAVE TO BUT BECAUSE WE WANT TO.
2. It is a _____ that calls us to _____.
 - a. Humans are forgetful and need reminders even of the most important things in life.
 - b. God knows this better than anyone and so He gave us a perpetual memorial. Not a monument that we have to go and visit but a simple event that every lover of God can participate in no matter where they are.
 - c. Jesus said, "Do this *in remembrance* of Me."
 - d. It is a memorial that consistently and lovingly calls every Christian to remember the death, burial and resurrection of the one who saved them.
3. It is a _____.
 - a. When a believer gathers faithfully and regularly to partake of the Lord's Supper, he is proclaiming to the world his love

for his Lord by remembering and being obedient to Jesus who sacrificed Himself for us.

- b. Paul also tells us that when we partake of the Supper we are literally preaching a sermon because when we eat the bread and drink the cup we are proclaiming two very important events to be absolutely true:

#1 – The _____ – The death of Jesus for our sins.

#2 – The _____ - His return for us.

Read I Corinthians 11:26

4. It is a _____ with the Lord.
- This is the fourth and perhaps, most important reason for the Lord's Supper. In every age, in every culture, one of the most intimate ways to show trust and friendship is to share a meal together.
 - The Creator of the universe and The Savior of the world calls us together on a regular basis to share a meal with Him to be constantly bonded to Him in a closeness that nothing can break.

III. WHEN DO WE PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- A. When Jesus gave the Lord's supper He did not specify the _____ or _____ of observance.
- Jesus left many things for the Holy Spirit to teach the Apostles (John 16:12-13). He simply said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as OFTEN as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
 - When the Church was established on Pentecost, the Apostles were careful to follow His admonition. Luke states that the church "continued steadfastly in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in *the breaking of the bread*, and prayer" (Acts 2:42).
 - The word "steadfastly" indicates that they did this continuously, devoting

themselves constantly to the service of God through these channels.

3. Some think that the early church may have observed the Lord's Supper daily for a while but one thing is for sure, it was definitely observed weekly on the first day of the week. We know this from several evidences:

#1 - There is plain Scriptural _____.

- a. On Paul's third missionary journey we are told that he was in a hurry to return to Jerusalem to celebrate the day of Pentecost yet he stayed seven days in Troas to be with the church there on Sunday to break bread (Acts 20:7).

#2 - There is Scriptural _____ that it was done every week..

- a. In I Corinthians 11, Paul is rebuking the Corinthian Christians for the way they were abusing the Lord's Supper when they came together. From chapter 16, we know that the church came together at least once a week on the first day of the week.

#3 - There is clear _____ evidence for the practice.

- a. Men through the centuries testify of behalf of the weekly communion.
- b. A council met in AD 324 and stated that if one failed to participate in the weekly communion his tithes and offerings would be refused.
- c. Dr. John Mason, noted Presbyterian, stated, "The Lord's Supper was observed by the first Christians every Lord's Day."
- d. John Wesley (Methodist), stated in "Letters to America -1784", "I also advise the elders to administer the supper of the Lord on every Lord's Day."

IV. WHO MAY PARTAKE OF THE SUPPER?

A. This question is often asked.

1. The Lord stated, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood" (I Cor.11:25).
2. The blood of Christ is the seal of the New Covenant and His blood was to take away our sins. Since the Lord's Supper is the seal of that covenant, it will only have meaning to those who are _____.

3. We have come into Christ through faith and obedience to His Word. In the watery grave of baptism we meet the blood of Jesus. We are thus buried to the old life and raised to walk in the new life. Why should the unsaved commune with Christ? He has not as yet become a part of the new covenant. Outside of Christ, he is not part of the covenant relationship. What he needs to do is to come by faith to Christ. When he becomes a Christian he has something vital to celebrate on the first day of the week.
4. It is the church's responsibility to prepare and offer the Supper each week. The Lord has not asked us to practice either "closed" or "open" communion. It is the Lord's supper and He does the inviting.
5. Paul gives us insight into personal responsibility by saying, "Let a man examine himself..." (I Cor. 11:28).
6. IT IS THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO _____ THE SUPPER AND IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO _____ AND DECIDE WHETHER HE/SHE SHOULD PARTICIPATE OR NOT.

V. HOW SHOULD WE PARTAKE?

- A. Please read I Corinthians 11:23-30 very carefully.
- B. The Apostle Paul is dealing with a church that has misused and abused the Lord's supper.
 1. In verses 17-22 he remonstrates them for making the Lord's Supper a common meal, some even getting drunk, others gluttonous, and caring nothing for the poor that had nothing in their baskets. Not only a shame to the Lord's Supper but a _____ condition in the church was developing.
 2. To meet this situation Paul rebukes them and tells them how Christians should keep the Lord's Supper. Paul said, "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord" (I Cor. 11:27).

- a. Paul is not speaking of one's personal worthiness to partake. He is speaking of the manner of partaking.
- b. He is not referring to what was done ten years ago, but what you are doing NOW. What is your attitude towards your Lord and the brothers and sisters around you?