

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 Supper* (1 Cor 11:2; referred to as an 'ordinance' or commandment). This Supper pictures many spiritual truths that apply to our lives now that we are saved - most importantly being the *remembrance* of Christ's death for us, and the price of our sin on His cross.
- B. The Lord's Supper focuses our lives back on the basis of our salvation - the substitutionary death of our Saviour in our place.
- 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.

II. The Importance of the Lord's Supper

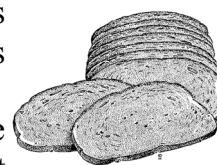
- A. 1 Cor 11:26 says that when a Christian eats the Lord's supper, "...ye do shew the Lord's _____ till he come." Its primary importance is to bring to remembrance the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 22:19 says, "...this do in _____ of me." It is intended to bring our attention back to what Jesus did for us on the cross.
- B. We are told in 1 Cor 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 Heb 10:5-14; and John 19:30)!
- C. The blood, which is able to cleanse us from our sin and save our souls, is **pictured** (not *recreated*) in the cup from which we drink during the memorial (Rom 3:24,25). That blood was shed for us for the remission of (the taking away of) our sins (Heb 9:22).

III. The Elements of the Lord's Supper as Listed in John 6:53-63

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.

- A. 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. John 6:63 tells us that the words that Christ was speaking "**are** _____." They were not to physically eat *Him*, but rather to partake of Him *spiritually*, to partake of His finished work on the cross. No one ate His body literally then, and no one is to now! Or Christ is teaching cannibalism!
- B. The Jews were commanded **never** to eat _____ (Lev 17:11,12), for the blood is the life of the flesh. That is why the Jews were confused (John 6:52, 60). They were trying to apply what Christ said literally and physically (like Nicodemus did about the new birth in John 3:3-7), which was contrary to Scripture.

- C. Jesus in **John 6** is stating that a *better* "manna" than the kind the Israelites ate in the wilderness had come (**Jn 6:30-34**). The Jews had asked for literal *bread* to give them eternal life (**6:34**), just as the Samaritan woman had asked for literal _____ in **John 4:15**. But Jesus said HE was living bread, and living water (**Jn 4:14; 6:35; 7:37-39**). Jesus knew however, that they would not believe His *words* (**Jn 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 (**Jn 6:41-44,66**).
- D. This was not the only time that Jesus used "figures," or examples to explain His work on earth. He also referred to Himself also as "*the* _____" (**John 10:7,9**), and yet he was not a *literal* _____ with hinges, but the WAY through which to get to heaven (**John 14:6**).
- E. So, at the cross, there lays a GIFT (**Rom 6:23**), and that is all. There is no *flesh and blood* waiting there to be ingested (eaten). It is *eternal life* itself, which simply has to be *received* (**John 1:12,13**) by faith (**Eph 2:8,9**)!
- F. The Lord's Supper is the fulfillment of the *Passover Supper* since Jesus was the Lamb of God that took away the sins of the world through His death on the cross (**John 1:36; Luke 22:7-20**).
- G. The two elements are: *unleavened bread* and *unleavened wine*. They are unleavened because leaven is a picture of _____ (**1 Cor 5:8**), and Christ has no _____. The bread pictures His body, and the wine (grape juice, or new wine) pictures His blood. Grape juice is used because normal fermented wine is *leavened* and corrupted, while new wine (grape juice) has not fermented but only has the flavour of the grapes (as in pure blood, see **Deut 32:12-14**).



IV. Who Can Participate?

The passage of Scripture that teaches all about the Lord's supper is **1 Corinthians 11:20-26**. It describes how the Lord's Supper should be conducted. The people Paul was writing to were *believers*. 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. 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 (**1 Cor 11:27-34**)!

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

There are no explicit instructions on how to perform the Lord's supper other than presented in **1 Cor 11:20-34**. No fancy rituals, or mystical sayings are involved. There is no transformation of the bread and wine! It is only a remembrance. Simply, unleavened bread and unleavened wine (grape juice) are to be eaten and drank in the worship time of your local church (**Acts 2:42; 20:6,7**) for the purpose of **remembering** Christ's substitutionary death *in your place* so that 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 **1 Cor 11:17-23**. 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 _____ to eat the Passover with His disciples in **Luke 22:15**. 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 **1 Cor 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 **1 Cor 10:20,21**. One is a SACRIFICE to _____, and the other is a "communion" (**10:16**) or "fellowship" with Christians only *remembering* Christ's death. So many people participate in a mockery of the Lord's Table, and are actually worshipping devils. No Christian has any business doing that.

Key Truths about the Lord's Supper

- ❖ It is a memorial not a sacrifice.
- ❖ It is a somber, reflective time.
- ❖ It uses unfermented grape juice, and unleavened bread to represent the blood and body of Jesus.
- ❖ It is to be practiced only by Christians who are living in obedience to God's word

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

Date Lesson Completed _____ *Discipler* _____