

THE LORD'S SUPPER

MT 26:26-29

INTRODUCTION

- A. The institution of the Lord's Supper is found in these passages: MT 26:26-29; MK 14:22-25; LK 22:19-20; 1 CO 11:23-25.
- B. How often is the Lord's Supper to be observed? Acts 20:7; 2:42; 1 CO 11:23ff; 16:1, 2.
- C. It is possible here at the Lord's Table to receive one of the highest blessings or to incur the greatest of condemnations.
- D. 1 CO 11:27. I am to know the Lord's Supper significance and observe it properly.
- E. What does the Lord's Supper mean to Christians?

DISCUSSION.

- I. TO THE CHRISTIAN THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A COMMEMORATION.
 - A. It is observed in memory of Christ. LK 22:19. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ are the heart of the Gospel and redemption. 1 CO 15:1-4.
 - B. We are inclined to forget. That is why we have pictures and tombstones.
 - 1. Memories fail and people are forgotten. JE 2:32; EC 12:1.
 - 2. We are admonition to remember. 2 PE 3:1; RE 2:5.
 - 3. Tie a string around our finger!
 - C. The Lord's Supper is a constant reminder of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
 - 1. The emblems are appropriate: bread for body; fruit of vine for blood.
 - 2. The emblems are accessible: they can be found anywhere on earth.
 - D. In the Lord's Supper, by faith, I see Christ's death for me.
 - 1. This memory stirs the Christian to humble gratitude.
 - 2. God has provided "lest we forget."
 - 3. Song #100.
- II. TO THE CHRISTIAN THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A COMMUNION.
 - A. 1 CO 10:16.
 - B. Communion is from the Greek word - κοινωνία – koinonia – that means participating or sharing in benefits of His blood and body.
 - C. The Lord's Supper brings us to a realization of our union with Christ.
 - 1. Paul's argument is that eating idolatrous meat in the idol's temple unites the eater with the idol, and proves this by showing that eating the Lord's Supper identifies the Christians with Christ.
 - 2. Therefore, the Lord's Supper is proven to be for Christians only. MT 26:29.
 - D. The Lord's Supper is a two-fold communion.
 - 1. With Christ: In eating we signify our union with Christ; we are with Him and share His grace and salvation.
 - 2. With one another: In eating we also show we are united with one another; we are the one body; mutual sharers of His grace. 1 CO 10:17.
- III. TO THE CHRISTIAN THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A PROCLAMATION.
 - A. It is an announcement, publication, and declaration. 1 CO 11:26.
 - 1. The Gospel must be proclaimed to the world. 1 CO 2:1; Acts 17:23; MK 16:16.
 - 2. The Lord's Supper is one way every Christian can proclaim the death, burial, and resurrection to the world.
 - 3. Therefore, we should not forsake (εἰγκαταλείψω – egekataleipo – to abandon, desert – present active participle – "leaving behind) the assembling of ourselves together. HE 10:25.
 - 4. If improper observance will make one "weak and sickly", 1 CO 11:20, what will no observance do?
 - B. The Lord's Supper as a proclamation to the world suggests:
 - 1. A sermon of God's love, grace, and salvation that every Christian can preach weekly.
 - 2. The Christian's faith, courage, and zeal are exhibited every time the Lord's Supper is observed.

IV. TO THE CHRISTIAN THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A DEDICATION.

- A. 1 CO 11:25. "This cup is the new covenant in my blood..."
 - 1. Better described in the word "covenant" than "testament." The reference is to the sealing or ratifying of agreements.
 - 2. EX 24:5-8. This records the sealing of the covenant of God with Israel. The animal was slain and its blood sprinkled on the people. The blood sprinkled on the contracting parties solemnly bound them to their agreement. God promised to bless Israel, and Israel promised to obey God's commandments.
- B. The Lord's Supper represents the blood-ratified covenant between Christ and Christians. HE 8:6, 8, 12.
 - 1. Christ has promised to bless us with forgiveness, peace, prayer, hope, and every spiritual blessing. EP 1:3.
 - 2. In eating the Lord's Supper, Christians bind themselves to implicit obedience to Christ. Israel said: "All that the LORD hath spoken will we do, and be obedient." EX 24:7.
 - 3. We must eat the Lord's Supper with a consciousness of our promised dedication to Christ. He will keep His part of the covenant; will we?
 - 4. Liberality: we promised it. Are we true to our pledge?
 - 5. Purity: we have pledged it. Are we true to our part of the covenant?

V. TO THE CHRISTIAN THE LORD'S SUPPER IS AN ANTICIPATION.

- A. It has been given for Christians to observe, "Till He comes." 1 CO 11:26.
 - 1. While we eat the Super, the hope of the Second Coming fills our hearts. JN 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 TH 4:16.
 - 2. The Lord's Supper spans the gulf between the first and second comings (advents).
 - 3. "And thus that dark betrayal night, With the last advent we unite, By one bright chain of living rite, Until He come!"
- B. In view of the marvelous blessings that shall be ours when He comes again, we should:
 - 1. Desire, anticipate and rejoice in His coming.
 - 2. Have this hope rekindled within us every week as we observe the "Feast Divine."

CONCLUSION

- A. This is the significance of the Lord's Supper, and there is far more involved in eating than meets the eye of the casual observer.
- B. If properly observed by Christians, it will result in greater love, appreciation, faith, zeal, obedience, hope, and joy.
- C. May we come to appreciate its meaning more and thus to partake of it more worthily, and be blessed both now and in eternity.