

37. THE LORD'S SUPPER

Bible Reading: Matthew 26:20-30; I Corinthians 11:23-34.

Memory Verse: I Corinthians 11:24-26, "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me...."

Aim: To understand the meaning and purpose of the Lord's Supper. To remember Christ's sufferings.

1. **Purpose** of the Lord's Supper.

- i) **Obedience** to Christ's command: "this do in remembrance of me." (I Corinthians 11:24).
- ii) **Commemoration:** To **remember** Christ. (I Corinthians 11:25). We should remember Jesus Christ's incarnation, birth, baptism, ministry, transfiguration, temptation, miracles, teachings, sufferings, Gethsemane, trials, mockings, scourgings, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and second coming.
- iii) **Proclamation:** To show forth the **Lord's death**. (I Corinthians 11:26). The gospel is proclaimed in an object lesson. The broken bread pictures Christ's broken body. The grape juice (unfermented) pictures Christ's blood shed for the remission of sins. We don't partake to get forgiveness of sins.
- iv) **Examination:** v.28 commands us to examine ourselves before eating and drinking the Supper.
We are to judge our hearts and lives, and confess any known sin to God. (v.31). Psalm 139:23.
- v) **Anticipation:** To show our belief in **Christ's return**. "...till he come." (I Corinthians 11:26). We partake with glad thoughts of Christ's soon return.

2. **Participants:** Who may partake of the Lord's Supper?

- i) Only those who have received Christ as Saviour and are baptised.
- ii) Only those who have confessed their sins and are in fellowship with God. I John 1:9.

3. **Requirements:** Self Examination is essential before the Lord's Supper. I Cor 11:28; Psalm 139:23,24

- i) **Who** do we examine? Ourselves only. "But let a man examine himself..." (v.28).
- ii) **Why** must we examine ourselves? – it is a Bible command, (v.28).
-- to eat unworthily brings judgment, weakness, sickness and early death. (v.29-31).
- iii) **How** do we examine ourselves? Ask: -- Am I really saved? (II Corinthians 13:5).
-- Is there any unconfessed sin in my life? Such as self pity, pride, laziness, impurity, covetousness, disobedience, worldliness, lust, lack of Bible reading, prayer, soul winning.
-- Do I genuinely repent of my sins? -- Do I obey Christ's commands?
-- Do I love God and other believers? Have I forgiven those who've sinned against me?

4. **Elements:** of the Lord's Supper are unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice being the symbols of Christ's body and blood. "and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." v.28.

5. **Results:** -

- i) The believer is **cleansed**, as he examines himself and confesses any known sin. (I John 1:9).
- ii) The believer is **strengthened** by fellowship with Christ and with believers.
- iii) The believer is **edified** (built up) as he meditates on Christ's death and return.

6. **Procedure:** First have a moment of personal prayer for each person to confess his sins to God. Then:

1. Invite two men to the front and hand the bread to them.
2. Pastor says: "For I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat,...." I Corinthians 11:23-24.
3. Pastor asks one of these men to pray for the remembrance of Christ's broken body.
4. Ushers hand out the bread. Hold on to the bread until all have received it.
5. Pastor says: "And when He had given thanks, he brake it and said, take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." I Corinthians 11:24.
People eat bread now.
6. Pastor says: "After the same manner also he took the cup...." I Corinthians 11:25.
7. Pastor asks the other person to pray for the remembrance of Christ's shed blood.
8. Ushers hand out the grape juice.
9. Pastor says: 'After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.' (v.25).
All drink grape juice now. After a moment of quiet prayer, ask people to turn to our Closing song:
10. Sing "Amazing Grace" or another suitable song as the Closing song. Close in prayer.