

# In Remembrance of Me

The Lord's Supper

I Cor. 11: 23 - 30

# Introduction

- Lord's Supper is a very important act of worship.
- Also known as communion (1 Cor.10:16)
- The breaking of bread (Acts 2:42)
- Formerly known as "The Eucharist"
- Eucharist = Greek word meaning the giving of thanks.
- Derived from Matt. 26: 26 - 27

# Introduction

- It is an important act that we should understand. Why?
- 1. Lest it be meaningless to us.
- 2. Let it be displeasing to God.
- 3. Lest it be harmful to us (1 Cor. 11:27)
- 4. Lest we not understand who we are in Christ Jesus.
- 5. Lest we mock what Christ has done for us.

# The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

- 1. It is a Memorial (I Cor. 11: 23 – 25).
  - We eat the bread in memory of His body.
  - We drink the cup in memory of His blood.
  - We commemorate the death of Jesus.
  - We remember that His death made the New Covenant possible.
  - We remember who shed His blood for the remission of sins.

# The Meaning of Lord's Supper

- 2. It is a Proclamation.
  - We proclaim faith in the truth of the Lord's death.
  - If we don't believe He died for our sins, why participate?
  - We proclaim our faith in the Lord's return.
  - It is to be done until He comes back!
  - It proclaims that we look forward, backward, and expectantly await His return.

# The Meaning

- 3. It is a Communion.
  - It a fellowship/sharing in the blood of Christ.
  - It is a reinforcement of the blessings that are in Christ Jesus (1 John 7,9)
  - It a fellowship/sharing IN the body of Christ.
  - It also stresses the importance of our Fellowship TOGETHER!!!

# How to Observe the Lord's Supper

- 1. It is to be done in Reverence.
  - It is to be done in a “worthy manner” (I Cor. 11: 27)
  - Worthy = Describes how to take it, not who to take it.
  - We must respect what God has done for us.
  - We must reflect on how Jesus suffered for us.
  - We must reflect on the spiritual anguish and pain that Christ suffered.

# How to Observe the Lord's Supper

- 2. It is to be done with Self-Examination.
  - Are we living in a way that shows we appreciate what Christ has done for us?
  - It is a private reflection b/w self and God!
  - Are we living for Jesus who died for us?
  - Are we misusing God's grace?
  - Are willfully sinning and guilty of:
    - Trampling the Son of God underfoot?
    - Insulting the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:26-29)
    - Refusing to repent and crucifying Christ afresh?



# How to Observe the Lord's Supper

- 3. It is to be done with other Christians.
  - The disciples came together (Acts 20:7).
  - We are to wait (tarry) for one another (I Cor. 11:33)
  - We are to partake together of that “one bread” in one body (I Cor. 10:17)
  - We not only commune with God, but with one another.

# When to Observe the Lord's Supper

- 1. To be done weekly.
  - Acts 20:7
  - The church at Corinth was coming together consistently, but observing it wrongly (1 Cor. 11: 17 – 22)
  - To be done at the same time and on the same day collections are taken up (1 Cor. 16: 1,2)
  - It was a weekly observance in the N.T.
  - It was done on the first day of every week.

# When to Observe the Lord's Supper

- Historical evidence:
  - The Didache (95 A.D.) indicates that Christians came together on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week.
  - Justin Martyr records Christians assembled on Sunday to break bread.
  - Early Christians/Historians such as Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Cyprian all confirm this fact as well.

# Confirmation

- Religious Scholars throughout history confirm this same fact:
    - Thomas Scott, Presbyterian minister
    - A.C. Harvey, Episcopalian minister
    - P. Doddridge, Congregationalist minister
    - Augustus Neander, Historian
- They all confirm that the early N.T. church observed the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week.

# Consequences

- If not taken properly AND for the right reasons:
- One will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- One will drink judgment to himself.
- “For this cause, many are weak and sickly among you and many sleep (dead).”
- To make light of the Lord’s Supper is to mock what Christ did on the cross for us!!!!

# Conclusion

- The Lord's Supper is to be observed by Christians in the Lord's Body.
- It does not mean that we must live perfectly to observe it.
- It does mean that we are to be serious and sincere when partaking of it.
- It does mean that we will answer for it in judgment.