

UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S SUPPER

Let the world forget everything else Jesus ever taught, but let them not forget his death. By His death the gates of hell were lifted off their hinges; the foundations were cut from under the kingdom of evil; the doors of the prison house of Satan were thrown wide open. It was a day long to be remembered; it was a deed never to be forgotten, and Jesus would not let us forget. Like many other times, He used the simple things in life to communicate incredible truth. His death was no exception. With the simplicity of eating and drinking, Jesus illustrated how to keep His sacrificial death in our memories.

If you've been a Christian for more than a few months, you've likely seen and observed the Lord's Supper. If you've been a Christian for most of your life, then you've likely eaten the bread and drank from the cup many times. And yet, for many of us, the meaning and importance of the Lord's Supper remains a mystery. Whether you've celebrated the Lord's Supper one hundred times, one time, or never at all, reflect on these truths in preparation for the Lord's Supper today.

The Lord's Supper is the Lord's Supper. Matthew, Mark, and Luke relate the account of Jesus' observing the Last Supper (Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20). The Apostle Paul gave clear instruction to the church at Corinth, and reminded them that our celebration of the Supper is instituted and commanded by Jesus Christ, our Lord. He wrote, "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, *"Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."* In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." (1 Cor. 11:23-26). We celebrate the Lord's Supper each month as an act of obedience to the Lord.

The Lord's Supper is a Memorial. When Jesus said, "do this in remembrance of Me," He highlighted the significance that the Supper is to be a time of remembering what it signifies. When we hear "this is My body which is for you," and, "this cup is the new covenant in My blood," Jesus is using metaphorical language. That is, the bread and juice are not actually his body and blood as some would teach, but they are visible symbols that help us remember the significance of Jesus' death for our sins.

The Lord's Supper is Temporary. In the Lord's Supper we remember Jesus' death, but we do not stop there. Paul also tells us that we "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Cor. 11:26). You see, Jesus' death on the cross wasn't the final word, He rose from the dead and is coming again! When He establishes His final reign over His enemies, there will be no need to continue to remember what He did on the cross with symbols—we will see Him with our own eyes!

So, today if you believe in the Lord Jesus and have been biblically baptized, we invite you to come to the Lord's Table to remember Him. Here are some things worth reflecting on as you prepare to participate:

1. Is there any unconfessed sin in my heart?
2. Remember that Christ died for those sins, and that memory is what the Lord's Supper is all about!

If you are not a believer, let this Supper for God's people remind you that if you place your faith in Christ for salvation, He is able to save you from your sins. We would love to talk to you about that process, find our pastor this morning to discuss it with him.