

The Purpose & Power of the Lord's Supper

2005027

Topic # 0394 (Lord's Supper)

Introduction:

- A. Psa 96:1-9 – worship is an eternally important and challenging subject.
 - 1. Worship is to be performed so as to please God.
 - 2. Worship is a VERB & involves action on our part. It is not associated with passiveness.
 - 3. In worship, we participate, we are active & involved.
- B. One of the acts of worship we engage in is the Lord's Supper.
 - 1. It is difficult to overestimate the importance or significance of the LS.
 - 2. Thomas Campbell: *NT Worship ceases when the LS is not observed every Lord's Day.*
- C. Mt. 26:26-30 – Jesus observed the Passover for the last time.
 - 1. Passover was a Jewish feast observed annually. Deut. 16:1-8.
 - 2. It commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt. Ex. 12:1-28, 43-49.
- D. Lk. 22:14-15 – this last Passover was extremely important & very special to Jesus.
 - 1. *Before I suffer* – he knew his death was imminent.
 - 2. John 13:1- he was with the ones he loved –*He was with them to the end.*
- E. Mt. 26:26-30 – the record – when the LS was instituted.
 - 1. Lk. 22:19 – this was to be done in the memory of Jesus Christ.
- F. The importance of properly observing the LS cannot be overemphasized.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 11:20-22 – Corinthians abused it.
 - 2. 1 Cor. 11:27, 29-30 – misuse was serious consequences.

I. The purpose of the Supper.

- A. It is a **Memorial** – Lk. 22:19 – *This Do in Remembrance of Me.*
 - 1. Paul's writing: 1 Cor. 11:23-25
 - a) Eat the bread in memory of His body.
 - b) Drink the FOV in memory of the blood He shed.
 - 2. We therefore commemorate the death of Jesus on the cross.
 - a) Jesus' death made the new covenant possible.
 - b) The blood He shed was done for the remission of sin.
 - 3. Just as the Passover was a memorial commemorating Israel's deliverance from Egypt through the blood of lambs on doorposts...
 - a) So the supper is a memorial to the death of Jesus whose shed blood makes the deliverance from sin possible.
- B. It is a **communion**. 1 Cor. 10:16-17
 - 1. It is a sharing in the **blood** of Christ.
 - a) It is a vital sharing & vital communication.
 - b) In the LS, each week, we have a fresh & loving encounter with Jesus.
 - 2. We pause to reflect on the **blessings** we enjoy through Christ.
 - a) because of His blood, we can walk in the light – 1 John 1:7

- b) because of His blood, we have forgiveness of sin – 1 John 1:9
- 3. 10:17 – it is a time when we reinforce the blessings of our fellowship together while we break bread.
 - a) We bear witness to the unity of the body of Christ.
 - b) No superiors/inferiors at the Lord's Table.
 - c) *The ground is level at the foot of the cross.*
- 4. This bond was so strong in the early church that:
 - a) They shared 1 heart & 1 mind.
 - b) 1 suffered; all suffered.
 - c) 1 weakened; all weakened.
 - d) 1 strengthened; all built up.
- 5. Lord's Table should prevent all **bitterness** & back biting among those who share a place in the body of Christ.
 - a) It should promote a greater love among us.
 - b) Pettiness is beneath the dignity of those redeemed in the blood of the lamb.

II. The observance of the Supper.

- A. 1 Cor. 11:27, 29 – it is to be done with **reverence**. *In a worthy manner.*
 - 1. Describes **HOW** we partake of it. KJV problem: *worthily*.
 - 2. Whether or not we're worthy is NOT under discussion here. *Who's worthy?*
 - 3. It is to be partaken with respect for the supreme price Jesus paid for our sins.
 - 4. 11:29 – *discern* literally means to "**look through.**"
 - a) People use microscopes & telescopes to bring into view something otherwise invisible. We look through them to discern these objects.
 - b) The LS is intended by God to bring before us in clear spiritual vision our Savior & His sacrifice.
 - 5. It is human nature to forget.
 - a) Greeks said *time wipes all things out of memory* as if the mind was a writing slate and time was the eraser.
 - b) At times facts are only partially remembered.
 - c) So it is the place & significance of the LS to keep our memory clear, straight, and focused.
 - d) **What we discern serves as an anchor to our faith!**
 - 6. As we discern this action in worship:
 - a) We are connected to the past.
 - b) We are given meaning for the present.
 - c) We are inspired with hope for the future.
 - 7. It was because of the Corinthian's immaturity in failing to discern that Paul urged them to partake in a manner worthy.
 - a) **Any thoughtless, careless participation at the Lord's Table is a failure to discern!**
 - 8. Remember the cruel humiliation & torture He suffered.

- a) Remember the spiritual anguish He suffered as He bore the punishment for our sins.
- b) Mt. 27:46
- 9. 11:27, 29 – failure to observe w/reverence brings condemnation.
- B. 1 Cor. 11:28 – it is a time of **self examination**.
 - 1. *Am I living in a manner that shows **appreciation** for this sacrifice?*
 - 2. *Am I living for **Jesus** who died for me? Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15*
 - 3. *Have I accepted His **grace** into my life? 2 Cor. 5:18-6:1*
 - 4. *Am I engaging in **willful sin**? Heb. 10:26-29*
 - 5. *Is there sin I am unwilling to **repent** of? Heb. 6:4-6*
- C. In this aspect, the LS is a very private matter between Christians and their God.
 - 1. It is a time to reflect on the past & to resolve for the future.

III. the Power of the Lord's Supper

- A. 1 Cor. 11:26 – as we partake of the LS – we preach a powerful sermon – we *proclaim the Lord's **death***.
- B. Participation in the LS proclaims:
 - 1. the vital fact of the **gospel** – 1 Cor. 15:1-4
 - 2. *While we were yet **sinners**, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8*
 - a) If we didn't believe it, why keep the supper?
 - 3. It affirms that our faith is **alive** and well.
 - 4. It testifies that Jesus is not **dead**, but is alive & well.
 - 5. 11:26b - It declares that He is coming
 - a) Our faith in His return.
 - b) We partake *till He comes*.
 - 6. It states that **judgment** is sure – Acts 17:30-31
- C. The LS looks forward as well as backward – and will ever be observed by those who trust in His redemption & anticipate His return!

Conclusion:

- A. The LS is a very special memorial of His death for our sins.
 - 1. Was instituted by Jesus Himself, He asked His disciples to do it in His memory.
 - 2. The first Christians continued steadfastly in its observance.
 - 3. Acts 2:42; 20:7
- B. Christians today should never lose sight of its significance.
 - 1. It should serve as a constant reminder of the sacrifice Jesus paid for our sins.
 - 2. It is a time for self examination & rededication of our service to God.
 - 3. It is a means of building fellowship with one another in the body of Christ.
- C. Do you have fellowship with Christ?
- D. If, why not?
- E. INVITATION