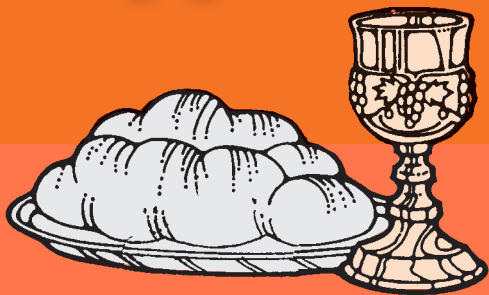


The Lord's Supper



*Are you
enjoying it?*

REMEMBER HIM

What wondrous grace is displayed in the opening words of Paul's account of the Lord's Supper: "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'" (1 Cor. 11:23-24).

The bread is a symbol of the Lord's body which was given up to death on Calvary's cross for us. When we eat it we are to remember Him and His death – when He endured all the wrath that was due to us, and in so doing glorified God.

The cup reminds us of the blood of Christ which was shed on the cross for us: "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. 11:25-26). Whenever we eat the bread and drink the cup, we announce the death of the Lord.

TILL HE COMES

Our hearts should be full of adoration when we remember how much love is expressed by His death on the cross for our sins. He gave Himself up for us, asking in return that we remember Him "till He comes."

When we do this, we are reminded that He is coming again in glory to receive us to Himself as the fruit of His suffering and death. We should never forget that our complete redemption – that is, our being "conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29) – is the result of the cross and the glory being inseparably bound together.

IN A WORTHY MANNER

We are not qualified to partake of the Lord's supper until the question of our relationship with God is settled. If we are not saved, we cannot remember the One who died to save us.

Further, Paul warns against careless participation in the Lord's supper: "Whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be

guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

Every Christian is positionally worthy to take part in this remembrance, because he is a Christian. But if a Christian partakes unworthily – that is, with unconfessed sin in his life – he brings the Lord's judgment upon himself. The Lord chastens in this life, so that "we may not be condemned with the world" (1 Cor. 11:32).

He chastened the Corinthians for their careless participation: "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep." Therefore, we should examine ourselves and judge everything that is unsuited to the presence of the Lord: "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged" (1 Cor. 11:30-31).

AS WORSHIPPERS

While we may begin with the benefits of Christ's death on our behalf, we are invited

to enter into God's thoughts concerning the death of His beloved Son. We are there as worshippers, inside the veil, occupied with the fact that God was glorified in this death (Heb. 10:19-22). When we consider how precious Christ was to God in that awful moment when He was made sin for us and was obedient unto death, then our hearts overflow with adoration and praise.

Think of it! We are invited to behold the Savior brought down into the dust of death, with all God's waves and billows passing over Him! We cannot help but cry, "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 1:5-6).

AS GIVERS

We are at the Lord's Supper as givers, even though we receive much when there. Our purpose in gathering is to worship, praise and thank God because we have been redeemed through the death of His Son. What a blessed privilege to show the Lord's death in this way: gathered around

Him with the symbols of His body and blood drawing out our affections, His love penetrating our souls and causing us to bow in adoration at His feet. It makes us long for the time when we shall see Him face to face, behold His glory and worship Him throughout the ages of eternity.

— *E. Dennett, edited*

Scriptures from *The New King James Version*, © 1994, Thomas Nelson, Inc. By permission.

Free tracts and biblical counsel available by request. Write:
Grace & Truth • 210 Chestnut Street, Danville, IL 61832
or • P.O. Box 4902, Kaduna Junction P.O., Kaduna, Nigeria
Email: tracts@gtpress.org / Web: www.gtpress.org

PRINTED IN USA