

## What Does the Table of the Lord Communicate to Us?

*Luke 22:14-20 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*

In the Heidelberg Catechism question 75 asks "How is it signified and sealed to you in the Holy Supper that you partake of the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross and all His benefits? In the answer we read, "The Lord's supper was instituted by Christ, who has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and to drink of this cup in remembrance of him, adding these promises, first, that his body was offered and broken on the cross for me, and his blood shed for me, as certainly as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me, and the cup communicated to me; and further, that he feeds and nourishes my soul to everlasting life, with his crucified body and shed blood, as assuredly as I receive from the hands of the minister, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup the Lord, as certain signs of the body and blood of Christ.

From that instruction I desire to ask two questions this morning. First, When we say the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ what do we mean by that? And secondly, what is the importance of this service? Through the asking of these two questions it is my desire that the meaning of the Lord's Table may become more precious to you. And that you will be strengthened in your faith and confidence as you partake of the Table this morning.

### A. When we say the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ what do we mean by that?

1. It was our Lord who first served the elements to His disciples during the Passover feast the night He was betrayed
2. We read that on the night in which He was betrayed He took bread, blessed it and broke and gave it to His disciples
3. We also read that He also took the cup, after blessing it, gave it to His disciples instructing them to drink all of it
  - a. At this time He told them that the bread was His body broken for them
  - b. He further told them the wine was the new covenant of His blood shed for them
4. Not only did He serve it that night, He then instructed them to keep this ceremony in remembrance of Him
  - a. The disciples then continued to serve the table in worship services within the church visible
  - b. Paul in His letter to the church at Corinth instructs them in the manner in which to both serve the table and receive of its elements
5. Thus we understand that this is a ritual given to the disciples by our Lord
6. And we may further understand that this observance was to be continued in the church until He comes again

### B. What is the importance of this service?

1. We are to understand that through the bread and wine certain things are communicated to us
2. The bread and wine are an analogy declaring and exhibiting in a particular manner the sacrifice of Christ
  - a. By this analogy we are made to remember the work of Christ upon the cross.
  - b. We are made to understand that His body was offered as a sacrifice for our sins
  - c. We are taught that His blood was shed as a covering, as an atonement for our sins
  - d. We are reminded that Christ is our Passover Lamb slain for us

- e. We are made to remember that *Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. Eph 5:2*
  - f. Let this table speak to you this morning of God's love for you for while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you dear Christian. Rom 5:8
3. We also learn of our sinfulness and therefore our lost condition
- a. We know from Scripture that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God
  - b. What is the significance of that?
    - (1) It means we have failed to reach the goal God's justice demands of us
    - (2) It means that we cannot enter heaven because we fall short of God's requirement of holiness in order to look upon Him
  - c. Best exemplified by the glory of our Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration
    - (1) Face shown brighter than the noon day sun and even His garments were whiter than any bleach could whiten them
    - (2) Light used in Scripture as the very essence of holiness and wisdom
    - (3) In contrast men's holiness would be like a small candle in the noon day, not even visible
    - (4) Our garments of righteousness are nothing but filthy rags
  - d. The table this morning speaks of the manner in which you were made acceptable to God in the Beloved

*Eph 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

4. Therefore the table clearly speaks of our necessity of Christ and His work upon the cross
- a. We are told in Heb 9:22 that "according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."
  - b. This simply means that no sinner can hope for forgiveness except through the blood of Christ.
  - c. That if one is to be saved they must be willing to rely on the merits of that blood
  - d. That there is but one means of salvation and that all must be saved in the same way and by the same means.
  - e. That there will be but one and same song in heaven-the song of redeeming love.

*Rev 5:9-10 "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*

CONCLUSION: As we partake of this table this morning let us then be mindful of these truths.

Let us be mindful that the bread speaks of our Lord's broken body that was crucified by which our Lord paid the penalty due us by suffering the wrath of God in our place

As we partake of the cup, let us be mindful that our Lord was indeed our Passover Lamb who shed His blood as a covering for our sins that we might not be subject to the judgment of God which we indeed deserve but that we will stand before God sinless in the robes of His righteousness.

Let this table be more than a mere remembrance but also a means whereby you are strengthened and built up in your most holy faith; trusting in Christ alone as your Redeemer and Savior.