

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord's Supper; Communion

- 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 23-26 contain the earliest records of the Lord's Supper in the Bible:
- Paul's 2nd letter (what we know as 1 Corinthians) to the church of Corinth was written earlier than any of the Gospels.
- It is revealed in these verses the account of what happened at the Last Supper.
- The Last Supper is 1 of 2 sacraments given to the church, the other being baptism.
- The Last Supper is meant to commemorate the shedding of blood and death of Jesus Christ as our substitution for the penalty of sin, and His return for those who remember Jesus in the Lord's Supper.
- In contrast, Resurrection Sunday or, Easter, celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus.

Today, this Palm Sunday, we focus on why Jesus presented Himself as Messiah which was to die for the sins of the world. We will learn more about...

1. **What the Remembrance IS** in the Lord's Supper,
2. The death of Jesus and what that means for us.
3. What "**Till He Come**" means for those who remember Jesus in the Lord's Supper.

We will endeavor to learn just exactly what does Jesus' death on **April 14th, AD 32** or as the Jewish calendar indicates, **The Day of Passover, 14 Nissan**, means for us. ***By the way...this year, 2024, 14 Nissan in on Monday, April 22

THE GOSPEL-GOOD NEWS of Jesus!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that;

1. **CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO**

THE SCRIPTURES;

2. *and that he was buried,*

3. *and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

i. We remember the Last Supper was actually a Passover meal, when Jesus, together with the disciples, according to Biblical commands and Jewish traditions, celebrated the remembrance of Israel's deliverance from Egypt to the Promised Land, beginning in the book of Exodus.

ii. The breaking of bread and the drinking of wine were important parts of the Passover celebration. Jesus took these important pictures and reminders of Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and added to them the meanings connected with His own death on the cross for us.

²³ For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took BREAD:

• Paul received from the Lord! Paul didn't just make this up, he received it from the Lord. It came to him from the Lord as a command for us to do.

In the same manner found in **1 Corinthians 15:3a** "*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received*"

Jesus communicated to Paul directly on a number of occasions:

1. on the road to Damascus,
2. in Arabia,
3. and three years in Tarsus before Barnabas had him come to Antioch.

²⁴ and when he had given thanks (eucharistéō,

In theology, and in church custom, the Lord's Supper is often called **the eucharist**.

This word comes from the ancient Greek phrase used here for given thanks.

eucharistéō means to be grateful, i.e. (actively) to express gratitude (towards); specially, to say grace at a meal: —(give) thank(-ful, -s).

he brake *it*,
and said,

Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you:
this DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

1. GOD HAS SENT THE "TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN"

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them,
Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Moses gave you not that bread from heaven;
but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

John 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven,
that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven:
if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:
and the bread that I will give is my flesh,
which I will give for the life of the world.

EAT=**phágō**, fag'-o; a primary verb; to eat (literally or **figuratively**):—eat, meat.

Here in this passage Jesus uses the word *phago* in a figurative sense.
To **partake** of Jesus, to **abide** in Jesus. To have Jesus inside you always!

**2. IN THE FORM OF A PERSON-GOD INCARNATE,
GOD IN THE FLESH.**

John 6:33 *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

John 3:16-17 *For GOD SO LOVED the world, that HE GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For GOD SENT not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved*

**3. THIS IS CHRIST-THE PROMISED MESSIAH,
THE SAVIOR OF US ALL.**

John 6:35 *And Jesus said unto them, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

4. ETERNAL LIFE IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN CHRIST

John 6:40 *And THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

Jesus' body was not physically broken, this is not what **“broken for you”** means.

Jesus IS the BREAD OF LIFE.

Through Jesus and His death WE have life.

And as pieces of a loaf of bread are broken off **to share with** others, so Jesus **offers his God-incarnated body** for us all, to be available upon belief to all.

1 Corinthians 10:16b-17

*The bread which we break, is it not **the communion of the body of Christ?** For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are **all partakers of that one bread.***

Because of the incarnation, we have availability with Jesus **because of the death** of God's incarnated body in Jesus.

**²⁵ After the same manner also *he took the cup,*
when he had supped, saying,
This cup is the NEW TESTAMENT in my blood:
this do ye, as oft as ye drink it,
IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.**

THE THIRD CUP OF THE PASSOVER

1 Corinthians 10:16a

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

THIS CUP is the new covenant in my blood (**not the blood itself**). The third cup is the cup of redemption in Christ's blood. This is a joyous blessing to remember! Let us be thankful and full of joy when we partake of the Lord's Supper!

In receiving the cup, we are called to remember the blood of Jesus and the **new covenant**.

The Passover meal featured several cups of wine, each with a different title.

The cup Jesus referred to was **the third cup**, known as THE *CUP OF REDEMPTION*, and Jesus added to the idea of redemption from slavery in Egypt the idea that His blood confirmed a **new covenant** that changed our relationship with God.

Sinner's have been set free and we are now no longer condemned!

Exodus 6:6

I WILL REDEEM YOU with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

• Go to the Passover inserts.

In Scripture, Wine and Blood are frequently connected through symbolism.

Jesus **raised the third cup of redemption** and commanded his disciples to remember Him **whenever they drank from it**, as part of the communion remembrance.

Jesus would soon shed His blood and die for the sins of all who trust in Christ. Jesus would become the final sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

No forgiveness of sins without the shedding of Christ's blood.

Jesus referred to this as the "cup of the new covenant."

God had made the Old Covenant with His people Israel during the time of Moses and the Passover event in Egypt.

It was also sealed with blood, that of sacrificial animals.

The new covenant is between God and all those He has called to faith in Christ.

Hebrews 9:14-17

¹⁴ *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

¹⁵ *And for this cause*

he is the mediator of the new testament,

that by means of death,

for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament,

they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

*¹⁶ For where a testament is,
there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.*

*¹⁷ For a testament is of force after men are dead:
otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MY BLOOD ALL ABOUT?

· It is about an inner transformation, that cleanses us from all sin:

Jeremiah 31:34 *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

· It is about God's Word and will in us:

Jeremiah 31:33a *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;*

· It is about a new, close, relationship with God:

Jeremiah 31:33b *and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can have a new covenant relationship with God.

But many Christians live as if there is no inner transformation.

They live as if there is no cleansing from sin, no word and will of God in our hearts, no new and close relationship with God.

The New Testament in the blood of Jesus should be observable in your life....

The New Testament in the blood of Jesus requires application to your life!

APPLICATION: Just like during the Passover event in the book of Exodus, the blood of Jesus is on the doorposts of our heart and should be observable for all to see!

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ** his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by **the blood of Christ**.

JESUS WAS “MADE SIN FOR US”

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

A CALL TO SEPARATION

Ephesians 4:22

²² that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

²⁴ and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

“...do ye...in remembrance of me”: It is a memorial only for imperfect people. Perfect people would have no need of this memorial.

- Our identification with Him also involves our humbling confession of our own helplessness and unworthiness as well.

No more excuses and all my own “good” works mean nothing.

The death of Christ **is the death of all man’s righteousness.**

I hereby declare myself to be completely unfit in myself.

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do Shew The Lord's Death

The word **shew** means to **Proclaim** and is translated **TO "PREACH"** in other places.

When we take communion, we preach a sermon to God Himself, to the Devil and all his allies, and to the world who watches.

.....TILL HE COME.

This is eschatological: Our personal relationship and destiny with Him.

- The Lord's Table is found in only 4 books in the NT.
– **The Harpazzo event (rapture)-occurring BEFORE the Tribulation, is affirmed in 23 verses in the New Testament**

- The Lord's Supper looks not only backward to the Cross, but forward to the Crown as well.

- It is a memorial only for the time of His absence.

When He comes, this supper will be supplanted by **the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.**

Revelation 19:7-10; The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb.

⁷Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

*⁹And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.** And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

¹⁰And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Five Points to Consider **about the Lord's Supper**

1. A Divine Command

- A solemn obligation: To assemble with the people of God for celebration of the memorial of the death of Christ in the Lord's Supper. To neglect to do so is to be disobedient to the Lord's direct wish.
- If you raise the objection that you are not worthy, I suggest that the only ones who have a right to come are those who really believe and confess that they are unworthy.

2. A Blessed Privilege

- The Table is the Lord's. Jesus Christ is the Host.
- We, who murdered Him, who reviled Him, and by our sin spit upon Him, and drove the cruel nails through His blessed hands—we are invited to come and sit at His Table with Him as our Host and feast with Him by His grace. What a privilege! And what an insult if we refuse that invitation.
- The Table is for His people and not for the world. This chapter, especially, applies to believers only.

3. A Necessary Memorial

- This reminds us of the infinite cost of our purchased salvation.
- It is His faithfulness, not ours, that saves us.

4. A Willing Testimony

- Consecrating ourselves to do His will. **1 Peter 2:5** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*
- The one loaf of bread signifies that all who participate partake of the one Body of Christ and form a covenant community. We are His covenant partners.

1 Corinthians 10:16b-17 *The bread which we break, is it not **the communion of the body of Christ**? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.*

- When Moses confirmed the first covenant at Mt. Sinai, he sprinkled blood on the people and said “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.”
 - Animal blood was sprinkled for the first covenant;
 - Jesus’ blood for the new covenant.

- The new covenant made the first obsolete.

Hebrews 8:13 *In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*

- He ratified this new covenant with Christ’s blood shed once for all
- Hebrews 9:26** *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

Hebrews 10:10 *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

- God appointed Jesus as the mediator of this covenant.

Hebrews 7:22 *By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.*

Hebrews 8:6 *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

5. A Humbling Confession

- “...do ye...in remembrance of me”: It is a memorial only for imperfect people. Perfect people would have no need of this memorial.

- Our identification with Him also involves our humbling confession of our own helplessness and unworthiness as well. All our excuses and all my own “good” works are worthless. The death of Christ is the death of all man’s righteousness. I hereby declare myself to be completely unfit in myself.