

The Last Supper - 04/17/22

TEXT- Matthew 26:26-29 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and*
1 Corinthians 11:23-30 *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:

INTRO — There was disorder in the Corinthian church, because the love-feast, which preceded the Holy Supper. In the love-feast of the early Church each brought his own supply of food, which was put into a common stock and shared by all; but at Corinth each family or group retained their own provisions, and a great distinction was thus made between rich and poor. The Lord's Supper is intended not only to commemorate the crucifixion, but to enable us to be crucified with Him. "That I may know Him and the fellowship of His sufferings."

To keep before the church and the world a constant remembrance of the Lord Jesus until he should again return, **1 Cor. 11:26.**

At a sailors' meeting a seaman prayed, "Lord, make us ships with two hatchways; one to take in cargo, and the other to give it out." A good prayer; Paul knew its answer, "I have received of the Lord that which, also I delivered unto you" (1Co 11:23). We are not storehouses; we are ships intended to trade with the heavenly country and bring supplies for a needy world. Always loading ends in overloading; if we unload, we shall soon be reloaded. He who keeps his talent in a napkin, will lose both napkin and talent; one will rot, and the other rust.

Four things strike us with amazement:—

1. That any should doubt the genuineness of Christianity. Here is an institution that was started the night previous to our Saviour's crucifixion, and which from that to this hour, through ^{two} ~~eighteen long~~ centuries, has been attended to by all the branches of the true Church.

2. That any should misinterpret this ordinance. It is to "show forth the Lord's death." There are three abuses of this institution which imply the grossest misinterpretation.

A. Their heathen festivals, gave way to **gluttony** and intemperance.

B. The **superstitious**. There are some who believe the elements become the "body and blood of the Lord." This is transubstantiation.

C. The **formalistic**. There are those who partake of the bread and wine merely as a matter of ceremony.

3. That it was to show forth the Lord's death till He come.

4. That any who know Christ should neglect it.

What the Lord's Supper Sees and Says

The supper which Christ has instituted, specially concerns himself.

If anything, concerning our departed friends specially touches our heart, it is their death. How lovingly we remember their last moments!
the main intent of our gathering around this table is to show forth his death.

I. THE BACKWARD LOOK OF THIS ORDINANCE.

It was intended to be the memorial of the great event of Christ's life; and I think you will all agree with me that it is *a most effectual memorial*. For twenty centuries the Church of God has kept alive the memory of Christ's death by this sacred feast.

In looking back from this ordinance, we see it to be not only a most effectual memorial, but also *a most instructive symbol*. Of what does this supper consist? Simply of bread and grape juice.

The bread must be broken; and what better emblem of suffering can you have than that

The broken bread is an emblem of that body of our Lord Jesus Christ till the "Man of sorrows" was utterly consumed by them. The cup indicates pain and suffering.

You have also, in this supper, something more than this; and that is, *an exhibition of the result of that death*. Our Divine Master died.

There is, in this supper, *a personal and yet united confession and testimony to Christ*.

He has died, — he has died for you;

May God's Spirit enable you to give that look at this moment!

II. THE PRESENT VOICE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

What does it say at this time?

It says to me, —that *Christ's death must still be kept to the front*.

I am to "shew the Lord's death till he come."

Christ to the front for myself! Christ to the front in my teaching! Christ to the front in all my prayers! Christ to the front everywhere!

We are not only to remember Christ, we are to "do this" in remembrance of him. This ordinance is intended to help our memory.

"*In this supper, I have fellowship with the souls that have gone before, and with those which will follow.*"

When our Lord said to his first disciples, "This do in remembrance of me," he really gave that command to each one of
He will come. He will come"

"*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for*

you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also;" and he will come. Do not grow weary;

This supper tells us that he will surely come again.

One more message comes from this broken bread,
It is his first coming that makes us ready for the second.

"Ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

III. THE PROPHETIC NATURE OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Christ will come again. We are to celebrate this supper "till he come."

"Behold, the Bridegroom cometh."

Think of those who waited four thousand years before Christ came here to die.

To wait two thousand years for our Lord's Second Advent

What does this ordinance further say to me? Why, surely, that *Christ's coming will be better than ordinances.* If, when he comes, there will be no more Lord's suppers as we observe them now

There is something coming for thee, believer, of which thou knowest but little. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into thy heart to know them; yet God hath revealed them to thee by his Spirit.

Do not forget that there is something better than this yet to be revealed.

This supper, as it looks into the future, tells us that *the time is coming when we shall be rid of all infirmities?*

CONCL – Paul said, "as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup."