

Lesson 10

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is one of the two pictorial ordinances of a New Testament church. That is, it pictures something. As we have seen, baptism pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The Lord's Supper is a picture of the broken body and shed blood of Christ when He died on the cross for us.

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, sometime called Communion, is a memorial supper. It is taken to remember our Savior, Jesus Christ. The unleavened bread pictures the body that was given for us. The fruit of the vine pictures the blood that was shed for our salvation. It is not a way of having our sins forgiven. Receiving the bread and fruit of the vine does not bestow any special grace upon us.

The Lord's Supper is to remember Christ.

Luke 22:19:

And he took _____, and gave _____, and _____ it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my _____ which is _____ for you: this do in _____ of me.

The Lord's Supper shows the Lord's death.

I Corinthians 11:26:

For as _____ as ye _____ this _____, and _____ this _____, ye do _____ the Lord's _____ till he _____.

Assignment: Read Matthew 26:26-30 and answer these questions.

1. What did Jesus do to the bread after He had blessed it? v.26

- _____
2. What did the bread represent? v.26 _____
3. What did the cup represent? v.28 _____
4. Why was Jesus' blood shed? v.28 _____
- _____
5. When will Jesus drink of the fruit of the vine again? v.29 _____
- _____
6. What did they do before they went out? v.30 _____

The Unleavened Bread

The Lord's Supper took place at the end of the Passover meal. Passover had been observed by Israel since they came out of Egypt. The only bread that God said to use during this feast was *unleavened bread*, which was bread made without *yeast*. *Leaven* or *yeast* is used in the Bible as a picture of *sin*. Since this bread was a picture of the body of Christ, it had to be without *leaven*. You will notice that Jesus broke the bread. This is also a picture of His body as it was broken, first with the crown of thorns on His head, then the whip on His back, then the nails through His hands and feet and finally the spear in His side.

The bread was unleavened bread.

Matthew 26:17:

Now the _____ day of the _____ of _____ bread the disciples came to _____, saying unto him, _____ wilt thou that we _____ for thee to eat the _____?

The bread pictured the broken body of Jesus.

I Corinthians 11:24:

And when he had given _____, he _____ it, and said, Take, _____: this is my _____, which is _____ for you: this do in _____ of me.

Assignment: Read Matthew 26:17-25 and answer these questions.

1. This was the first day of which feast? v. 17 _____

2. Who made ready the passover for Jesus? v. 19 _____

3. What time of day did the meal take place? v.20 _____
4. How many were with Jesus at the supper? v.20 _____
5. Who betrayed Jesus? v.25 _____

The Fruit of the Vine

Jesus used the term *fruit of the vine* when He spoke of what was in the cup. He did not use the word *wine* or *grape juice*. Actually fruit of the vine could be fermented or unfermented grape juice. It could **not** be anything else, like water, or milk, or tomato juice. This fruit of the vine was a picture of the blood of Christ that came from His head, His back, His hands, His feet and His side. Blood that was shed (not *spilled* as in an accident) for the forgiveness of our sins.

The fruit of the vine.

Matthew 26:29:

But I say unto you, I will not _____ henceforth of this _____ of the _____, until that _____ when I _____ it new with you in my Father's _____.

His blood was shed for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:28:

For this is my _____ of the new testament, which is _____ for _____ for the _____ of _____.

Assignment: Read Mark 14:12-25 and answer these questions.

1. How did the two disciples know the man they were to follow? v.13 _____

2. Where did they make the passover ready? v. 15 _____
3. How did the disciples feel when they found that one of them would betray Jesus? v. 19 _____
4. For whom was Jesus' blood shed? v.24 _____
5. What would Jesus drink no more until the kingdom of God? v.25 _____

How Often Should We Observe the Lord's Supper?

If observing the Lord's Supper was a means of getting our sins forgiven, we would want to take it every day. Since it is a memorial supper, we want to take it often enough to be meaningful but not so often that it becomes routine. The fact is, the Lord did not tell us how often to take it. So, each church must decide how often to observe it.

As often as ye eat.

1 Corinthians 11:26:

For as _____ as ye _____ this _____, and _____ this _____, ye do _____ the Lord's _____ till he _____.

Assignment: Read Luke 22:7-20 and answer these questions.

1. What two disciples did Jesus send to prepare the Passover? v.8 _____

2. Jesus desired to eat the Passover before he what? v.15 _____

3. When will Jesus eat the Passover again? v. 16 _____

4. For whom was Jesus' body given? v. 19 _____

5. For whom was Jesus' blood shed? v.20 _____

Why the Lord's Supper is Closed

In the New Testament, the Lord's Supper was never observed by individuals but only by churches. **Closed Communion** means that only members of a church partake of the Lord's Supper when it is observed. It was always in this order: first, salvation; second, baptism; third, church fellowship; and fourth, the Lord's Supper. This is the Bible order. We do not find unbaptized people or people who were not in fellowship of a church partaking of the Lord's Supper. The church at Corinth was told that a member living in a sinful condition was not to take the Lord's Supper but was to be put out of the church. They were told again that when there were divisions in their church they were not to observe the Lord's Supper. So, not only is the Lord's Supper limited to a church, it is limited to a church in harmony.

Some members who are not to eat.

1 Corinthians 5:11:

*But now I have _____ unto you not to keep _____,
if any _____ that is called a _____ be a
_____, or _____, or an _____,
or a _____, or a _____, or an
_____; with such an one _____ to _____.*

There are sometimes divisions in a church.

1 Corinthians 11:18:

*For first of all, when ye come _____ in the _____,
I _____ that there be _____ among you; and I
partly _____ it.*

Not the time to eat the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:20:

*When ye come _____ therefore into one _____,
this is _____ to _____ the _____.*

Assignment: Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and answer these questions.

1. What had Paul heard were in the church at Corinth? v.18 _____

2. What did they do to the church of God when they made a mess of the Lord's Supper? v.22 _____

3. Why should we eat and drink of the Lord's Supper? vs.24-25

4. How long are we going to show the Lord's death in the Lord's Supper? v.26 _____

5. What is a member to do before he takes the Lord's Supper? v.28

6. What condition were many of the people in the church at Corinth in because of the mess they had made of the Lord's Supper? v.30

7. Instead of the Lord's Supper, where is a man to eat if he is hungry? v.34

DO THE TEST FOR LESSON 10