

## CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

**INTRODUCTION:** As we come to our first observance of the Lord's Supper in the New Year let's be reminded of the five Biblical purposes in observing the Lord's Supper.

1. We are to look back to remember what Jesus accomplished for us through His death, burial, & resurrection and partake in the Lord's Supper with celebrating hearts (1 Corinthians 11: 23-25).

- When we share the Lord's Supper we are offered two elements. The first is the bread, which represents the body of Jesus sacrificed for us. When Jesus established the Lord's Supper He said, *This is my body which is FOR YOU...*

*He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities, He took the punishment we deserved, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.* Isaiah 53: 5-6

*...and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross; that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds we are healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.* 1 Peter 2: 24-25

- The second element in the Lord's Supper is the juice which represents the blood of Jesus. Blood is synonymous with life. We read in Lev. 17:11, "*for the life of the flesh is in the blood...*" In contrast, the shedding of blood, represents death. Notice Jesus said, "*this cup is the new covenant in My blood.*" The Greek preposition translated "in" can be translated "at the cost of." Jesus was saying the cup symbolizes the new relationship I have with you, which cost Me My blood, My very life!

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.* Romans 5: 8-9

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace...* Ephesians 1: 7

*...remember that you WERE at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world. BUT NOW in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Ephesians 2: 12-13

**2. We are to look forward to redirect our focus on the return of Jesus and partake in the Lord's Supper with confident hearts (1 Corinthians 11: 26).**

*And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."* **Revelation 11: 15**

*Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* **1 John 3: 2-3**

**3. We are to look within to refresh ourselves in Jesus as a present reality and partake in the Lord's Supper with committed hearts (1 Corinthians 10: 16).**

*...Christ in you, the hope of glory.* **Colossians 1: 27**

*He Himself said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"* **Hebrews 13: 5b-6**

*...so that Christ may dwell (comfortably) in your hearts...* **Ephesians 3: 17**

**4. We are to look up to reexamine our lives in the light of God's holiness and partake in the Lord's Supper with clean hearts (1 Corinthians 11: 27-32).**

*If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* **1 John 1: 6-9**

*He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.* **Proverbs 28:13**

**5. We are to look around to renew our relationships with another and partake in the Lord's Supper with caring hearts (1 Corinthians 10: 17 & 11: 33).**

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren...* **1 John 3: 16**

*Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord & the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.* **John 13: 12-15**