

“Do this is Remembrance of Christ”

Text: Matthew 26:18-30 “And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover. Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives...”

Purpose: The purpose of this section is to establish a new ordinance, the Lord's Table, as a continual reminder to the local church of the fulfillment of the Passover and Old Testament prophecies pointing to the redemptive work of Christ.

Proposition: God wants us to continually remember Christ's redemptive work for our sins.

Interrogative: How can we properly do this?

Truth 1: We need to understand the Old Testament Background:

Summary: The Passover anticipated the coming of Messiah: Exodus 12:3-24; “Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house... **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it... **11** And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever... **23** “For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door...²⁴ And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever...”

Isaiah 53:5-11 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities...”

- **Death sentence predicted:** “First born will die...”
- **Impending execution of judgment:** “Death angel is going to pass through the land...”
- **Provision of a substitute:** “A lamb without blemish...first year...”
- **The shedding of blood to remove the impending judgment:** “When I see the blood...I will pass over...”
- **A corporate and personal observation:** “Ye shall kill it...”
- **Personal responsibility:** “I will execute judgment...”
- **Memorial:** “This shall be a memorial...”

Truth 2: We need to understand The New Testament Background:

Summary: The Lord’s Supper looks back at the fulfillment of the coming of the Messiah. Matthew 26:26-30

- **Death sentence predicted: Romans 6:23** “Wages of sin is death...”
- **Impending execution of judgment Hebrews 9:27:** “It is appointed unto men once to die after this the judgment...”
- **Provision of a substitute: John 1:29, 36:** ” Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world...”
- **The shedding of blood to remove the impending judgment: 1 Peter 1:19:** “Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...”
- **A corporate and personal observation: Mark 1:15:** “Repent and believe the gospel...when you come together...”
- **Personal responsibility: John 3:** “Except a man be born again...repent and believe the gospel...”
- **Memorial: Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24:** “This do in remembrance of me...”

Truth 3: We need to approach the Lord’s Table with reverence and delight: 1 Corinthians 11:18-31 “When ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? **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:

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. 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. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged..."

The Issues going on in Corinth:

- There was cultural baggage associated with Corinthian culture.
- There was drunkenness and divisions.
- There was arrogance rather than humble worship.
- People were chastened severely by God for their irreverence and arrogance.
- The people's actions, associated with the arrogance of the world who had rejected Christ.
- We must individually examine ourselves.

Some practical implications:

- This is not a Baptist version of confession.
- This is primarily a joyful time of remembrance and reflection.
- This observance is symbolic of the nature of the gospel, our unity in Christ, and the nature of Christian growth.
- The burden of examination is on the individual not the church.
- A sacrilegious attitude toward the Lord's Table is dangerous to the careless.
- This is a local church ordinance, but should not be overly isolationist.

Conclusion: As we come together this evening to celebrate the Lord's Table, let's do it humbly, with unity, and great joy in the precious work of Christ, that unites us together into one body!