

The Lord's Supper:
Past, Present and Future
April 7th, 2019

Have you ever wondered why we do certain things as a Christian? Do we fully understand them or do we just do them blindly? For example, baptism, praying before we eat a meal, tithing and our topic today, the Lord's Supper. If we are going to do something, we need to understand what it means, what it points to, why we are to do it, and how often. Then once we understand these things, then by faith, we do them in obedience unto the Lord. My hope this morning is to better understand the Lord's supper and with more conviction know why we celebrate it together each month.

- 1) First off let's define what the Lord's Supper is. Naturally, most people will go to the New Testament gospels to see Jesus in the upper room with His Disciples.
 - a) Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."
 - b) This was a physical act that was done by Jesus with His disciples (all who were Jews) where Jesus used two specific elements. Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it. Then he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples to drink. These objects, the bread and the wine, form the very foundation of the message of the Lord's supper and the depth of meaning goes so much deeper than merely bread and wine, food and drink.

- 2) Let's read 1 Corinthians and get a little more detail on the Lord's Supper.
 - a) 1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
 - b) Although this is a physical act – eating the bread and drinking the wine – it points to something in the spiritual.
 - c) Verse 25 speaks to doing this in “remembrance of Me”. Remembrance of who Christ is - The messiah who Israel has been waiting for, the Promised Son of David, the one who has walked with the disciples, who has taught them, who has performed many miracles,

who has preached “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand”. They are told to do this in Remembrance this Man.

- d) It goes on to say every time you do this you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. For one this points to His return as King to set up His Kingdom. But also with “proclaim His death until He comes” it is imperative to look at not just His death but also His resurrection because without His resurrection he would not be sending His Holy Spirit, He would not be ministering as our High Priest and He would not be returning as King. We see this dealt with a bit in 1 Corinthians 15.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.
 - e) Just like Baptism, the physical act of the Lord’s Supper is not a magical event that we do to be saved, or that makes us more “righteous”. This act in the physical points to what we are to do in the spiritual. In taking the Lord’s Supper we...
 - f) Physically eat the bread – Picturing Christ’s body.
 - g) We physically drink the wine – Picturing Christ’s blood of the new covenant
 - h) Christ says, “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until the day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s Kingdom.”
- 3) The tricky part to this is that the Lord’s Supper functions on a variety of levels dealing with both Israel and the church, so this morning we are briefly going to be dealing with one facet of it, the church. There is also a past, present and future aspect of the Lord’s supper that we will also examine this morning. Through this past, present and future aspect we see the very structure of the Lord restoring His ruined creation through 6 days of work followed by a 7th day of rest. This is what the Lord’s supper points to, it deals with the full scope of salvation. We are told not to take this in an “unworthy manner” because we need to be spiritually ready when we do this for what it points to.
- 4) Beginning with the Past, The Lord’s Supper points to the past, finished work of Christ slain before the foundations of the World. The broken bread – His body, the wine – His blood, speaks of His death on the cross which was the sacrifice for our sins. This has already happened and is complete.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 **He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you

- b. We see this past act in relation to day 1 of the restoration process laid out in Genesis 1 – with the light shining in the darkness.
 - i. Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.
 - c. Man was created to rule in place of the disqualified ruler, Satan.
 - i. Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - d. Adam and Eve sinned and God's new creation, man, was now in need of being restored.
 - e. So, we see that this first aspect of the Lord's Supper deals with the Past. The first day in the restoration process - the light coming into the darkness, the lamb being slain before the foundation of the World, Christ finished work on the cross where His body was pierced and broken, where his blood was shed. Those who put trust in Christ are redeemed out darkness and bondage to sin, their Spirit is made alive and now they have the opportunity to understand spiritual things and to walk by faith.
- 5) The Second aspect of the Lord's Supper deals with the Present. The "Present" is where we currently live each day of our lives, this is where we will be spending most of our time this morning. We can see this as relating to day 2-6 in the restoration process found in Genesis 1. We can only understand and partake in the Lord's supper, in a Spiritual sense, after our Spirit has been made alive. That is why day 1 is the foundation on which everything is built.
- a) 1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.
 - b) After receiving Christ's finish work on the cross, our work and labor begins.
 - i) Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved... 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - ii) James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- c) This present work is for the purpose of receiving the salvation of our soul. This work is pictured through the breaking of the bread – His Body, and the drinking of the wine – His Blood. Let's start with the bread.
- 6) Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."
- i) God supernaturally provided physical food in the wilderness (Manna) for the children of Israel to eat and sustain them throughout their journey to the Promised Land.
 - (1) Exodus 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.
 - ii) They were told to do this for 6 days and on the 7th they should rest. This points to our continued daily work throughout the 6 days in preparation for the 7th.
 - (1) Exodus 16:26 "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."
 - iii) The supernatural provision was to sustain life in the wilderness while on their journey to the Promised Land. All of this pointing to something to come yet future – when the true bread from heaven would come and would sustain us on our journey. Let's read John 6:31
 - (1) John 6:31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.
 - iv) Christ is the Bread of Life and it is by eating this bread that we shall be given life in the age to come. This bread is His flesh, it is the Word of God.
 - (1) John 6:53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal [lit. age lasting] life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 **"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.** 57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 "This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."
 - v) Remember all of this is in a spiritual sense. We obviously are not eating His physical flesh nor drinking His physical blood – Something the Jewish leaders of the day couldn't understand. It is only through the eating His flesh and drinking His blood that we abide in Him. And it is only by abiding in Him that makes it possible for us to

bear any kind of fruit for the Kingdom of God. This eating His body and drinking His blood is the good work we are to be doing.

(1) Remember Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

vi) Let's look at another verse that talks about abiding in the Lord.

(1) John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch **in Me** that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every [branch] that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 "**You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.** 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw [them] into the fire, and they are burned. 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

b) The question we should be asking then is - How do we Eat His flesh and Drink His blood? We do this by being continually in the Word of God, being obedient to it and confessing our sin when we are not.

i) Christ is the Word made flesh.

(1) John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth

ii) While we see that Christ is the Word made flesh, we also see that all the scriptures are about Christ. When two disciples were on the road to Emmaus the Lord explained to them all the scriptures concerning Himself, starting in Moses and all the prophets.

(1) Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in **all** the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.... 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 **Then** their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"... 35 And they told about the things [that had happened] on the road, and **how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.**

(2) Christ explained all the scriptures to them concerning Himself and through the action of Him Breaking the Bread their eyes were opened and they knew Him.

(3) It was through the scriptures, abiding and eating His flesh that they knew who Christ was. Finally realizing it when He physically broke the bread in front of them. Amazing pictures isn't it?

- c) As we know shortly after these events Christ ascended to the heavens in promise of sending a Helper. This Helper was to lead and guide His people into all truth – through the Word of God – eating His flesh and drinking his blood.
 - i) John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- 7) Christ did not just ascend to the heavens to send the Helper but he also took His role as our High Priest. This is what is pictured through the present aspect of the Wine – His Blood.
 - a) Matthew 26:27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - b) It is through His blood that He ministers as our High Priest cleansing us from our sins. The minute we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ our spirit is made alive and the process of the salvation of our soul starts. It is through Christ's ministry as High Priest (seen through His blood) that we are currently "being saved".
 - i) Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - ii) 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - iii) Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for [His] good pleasure.
 - c) The blood is not seen alone in the washing of sin but we also need to see this in relation to the water.
 - i) After Christ had died on the cross a soldier came and pierced His side. When he did - blood and water came out. The water is apart of this process of washing and cleansing.
 - (1) John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.
 - d) We see this washing by water in relation to husbands loving your wives as Christ loved His Church.
 - i) Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
 - e) So, we see that this cup of wine – picturing the blood of Christ – is pointing towards Christ's role as our high priest. That through our submission to the Word of God, and because of our submission to it we see the sin in our lives, we then confess to our High

Priest whose blood is on the mercy seat, He accomplishes this washing and cleansing of us as we walk and live out our faith – leading to the salvation of our soul. This is a continual daily process.

- i) Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and [having] a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of [our] hope without wavering, for He who promised [is] faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
 - f) Putting the present aspect of the Lord's supper together involves;
 - i) the eating of His flesh – consuming the Word of God, being led by the Holy Spirit into all truth, receiving this Word with Meekness, allowing it to wash us by convicting us, teaching us and equipping us.
 - ii) Only through this process we become aware of the sin in our lives and have the ability then through the power of the Holy Spirit; make a choice to obey thus walking by the Spirit not the flesh.
 - iii) Drinking His Blood – We still have a sin nature, and thus we will not always choose obedience. When we don't walk by the Spirit but instead choose to walk by the flesh - we sin. But because of Christ's Blood on the Mercy seat if we confess our sin, He is faithful to forgive us. This is how we drink His blood – through repentance and Christ's role as our High Priest.
 - g) This is the present aspect of what the Lord's Supper points to in the Spiritual. We do this in the physical as a picture of what we are to do in the Spiritual. This is the Good works, this is the Abiding in Him, this how we will receive the salvation of our Soul.
- 8) Finally, the future aspect of the Lord's Supper is seen in day 7 of the restoration processes. This continues to build on the High Priestly ministry of Christ under the order of Melchizedek – the King/Priest. All of this points to Christ's coming Kingdom.
- a) We first see Melchizedek in Genesis 14 after Abram battles the kings for Lot's return. Notice what he brings out.
 - i) Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out **bread and wine**; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.
 - b) Christ will return in the Order of Melchizedek – the King/Priest. Christ is not of the Order of Aaron, a Levite, but born of the tribe of Judah. Therefore unable to serve as priest for the Jews. So for him to relate to the Jews in this manner an entirely new covenant is needed to be enacted.
 - i) Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things [pertaining] to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is

- also subject to weakness. 3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer [sacrifices] for sins. 4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron [was]. 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but [it was] He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." 6 As [He] also says in another [place]: "You [are] a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"; 7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, [yet] He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"
- c) The Children of Israel yet future will realize what they have done in killing their Passover Lamb, Christ, and they will repent of this, His blood will then be appropriated by Israel. Christ their King/Priest under the new covenant will forgive them of their sin – beginning the Kingdom of Christ. The new covenant that Christ makes with Israel, and Christ being the Jew's High Priest according to the Order of Melchizedek all point to that future day of Rest.
- d) This rest during the 7th day is coming for the Jews as well as the Church. That is why the writer of Hebrews encourages the church by saying...
- i) Hebrews 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God [did] from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.
- ii) All of this is pointing to the 7th day back in Genesis.
- e) We also see wine in relation to a wedding feast. Christ attended a wedding in Cana where he turned water into wine on the 3rd day. This was the start of His earthy ministry to the Jews. The wine pointing towards the future wedding feast where Israel and God the Father will be remarried on the third day.
- i) John 2:1 On the **third day** there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.
- ii) When Christ says in Matthew 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." He is speaking about the Third day when Israel repents, there is a wedding feast, the Kingdom is ushered in – He will then drink the wine which is being pictured here.
- 9) As we sit here this morning and we are about to physically take part in the Lord's Supper let us remember what it points to in the Spiritual. The Lord's Supper has a past, present and future work to it.
- a) The Past work of Christ – our Passover Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the World. Whose body was broken, and blood was spilt to bring light into darkness – pictured through Day 1 of the Restoration process.

- b) Leading to the Present work of Christ as the Bread of Life, the Word made flesh, who's flesh we are to eat and whose blood we are to drink. Picturing for us the work of the Holy Spirit in teaching us through God's Word, convicting, training and leading us into all truth. By abiding in Him; eating His flesh, and drinking His blood, and through the ministry of the High Priest, we are brought to maturity and thus will receive the salvation of our soul. This summarizes the activity in the restoration process seen in days 2 through 6.
- c) Bringing us the future work of Christ as the King/Priest under the order of Melchizedek. Where there will be a wedding feast, the Kingdom of Christ will be in affect and Israel will stand at their rightful place promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This is pictured in the 7th day of our restoration process.
- d) We see that the Lord's supper deals with the complete scope of our salvation. The reason for our creation and restoration. It brings us from death to life.

10) Therefore, we partake in this physical act of the Lord's Supper each month for this reason; to proclaim to each person in this room and even more importantly to the Lord Himself, about our seriousness and desire to live our life according to His plans and purposes. For us to show that we understand the process and the expectation the Lord has for His Church. For us to have a physical reminder of what we are called to do in the Spiritual each day.

- a) When I read this verse, I pray it has much more depth and meaning to you as we are about to take part in the Lord's Supper together.
- b) 1 Corinthians 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many [are] weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Let's Pray