

WHY IS OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER IMPORTANT?

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. These verses are the earliest record of the establishment of the Lord's Supper... by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Today I want to talk about... why observing the Lord's Supper is important.
- c. Observing the Lord's Supper is important because Jesus established it ... because of the picture it paints... because of the self-examination it requires.

II. OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE JESUS ESTABLISHED IT-

- a. Jesus established the Lord's Supper... on the night before He would go to the cross.
- b. Jesus and His disciples... had gathered in the large upper room of a house in Jerusalem... to eat and share the Passover meal.
- c. The Passover meal... was more than a meal... it was also a ceremony that commemorated the deliverance of the nation of Israel from Egyptian bondage.
- d. The Passover meal had an order of service... at certain times during the meal... certain things were said... certain things were eaten ... and the participants were instructed to drink from their cups.
- e. While the Passover meal commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage... it also foreshadowed and looked forward to a greater deliverance ... the deliverance of lost mankind from the bondage of sin.
- f. The Passover meal looked forward to the salvation and deliverance from sin... that Jesus provided when He died on the cross.

- g. At a certain point in the Passover meal... Jesus signified His fulfillment of the greater meaning of the meal... when He instituted the Lord's Supper.
- h. The language the Lord Jesus used when He established the Lord's Supper ... makes it clear that Jesus intended for the Lord's Supper to be observed by His church...(1) often...(2) and until He comes again.
- i. *1 Corinthians 11:25-26 (NKJV) "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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*
- j. The Lord did not give instructions... on how often a church is to observe the Lord's Supper.
- k. Some churches observe the Lord's Supper every Sunday ... some observe the Lord's Supper once a month... or once a year.
- l. Like many other churches... our church has chosen to observe the Lord's Supper four times a year... once every three months.
- m. While the Lord Jesus did not give us specific instructions on how often we are to observe the Lord's Supper... it is clear that the regular observance of the Lord's Supper... is an important part of the growing an obedient Christian life... and it is to be an important part of the program and life of a church.
- n. Regularly observing the Lord's Supper is not essential to salvation... but it is essential to the obedient Christian life.
- o. It is also clear from the New Testament that the Lord's Supper was given to the church... the Lord's Supper is intended to be observed as an act of worship ... by a church family when they come together.
- p. The Lord's Supper... is one of the two ordinances of the New Testament.

- q. An ordinance is an observance... a ceremony... and an act of worship that the Lord Jesus specifically commanded the church to observe until He comes again.
- r. The two ordinances of the New Testament church are believer's baptism... and the regular observance of the Lord's Supper.
- s. In Matthew 28... Jesus commanded the church to baptize those who come before the church and publically confess Him as Lord and Savior.
- t. And Jesus commanded that the church... regularly observe the Lord's Supper until He comes gain.
- u. Observing the Lord's Supper is important...because Jesus established it.

III. OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE PICTURE IT PAINTS-

- a. Last Sunday... Kerry Jackson used ink and a canvas to paint a stunning picture of the Lord Jesus on the cross.
- b. This Sunday...we have another stunning picture of the cross of Jesus Christ.
- c. This picture is found... in the elements of the Lord's Supper.
- d. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (CSBBible) "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

- e. The bread of the Lord's Supper... represents the physical body of the Lord Jesus that was nailed to the cross.
- f. Before He went to the cross... the perfect and sinless body of Jesus was scourged and mutilated... a tortuous crown of thorns was rammed upon His head into His skull... then spikes were used to nail the hands and feet of Jesus to the cross... and even after He died... a spear was stuck into His side.
- g. But even that... was not the worst of what Jesus suffered on the cross.
- h. During the six hours that Jesus was on the cross... my sins... your sins... and the sin of all mankind... were transferred and laid on the body of the Lord Jesus... and Jesus died to pay the penalty of our sin.
- i. Isaiah 53:5-6 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities... All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
- j. When you hold the bread in your hands this morning... it represents the body of Jesus... which was given for you.
- k. The juice of the Lord's Supper... represents the blood of Jesus that He shed on the cross for our sins.
- l. When a person believes in Jesus... the blood of Jesus is applied to our enormous and unpayable by us sin debt before God... and our sin debt is finally, fully and forever paid in full and wiped clean.
- m. *Romans 5:8-9 "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath."*
- n. *Ephesians 1:7 (CSBBible) "In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace."*

- o. *Colossians 1:14 (NKJV) “In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”*
- p. Today when you hold the bread and the cup in your hands... you have a vivid picture of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross... to make your salvation possible.
- q. Observing the Lord’s Supper is important...because Jesus established it... and because of the picture it paints of the sacrifice Jesus made to make our salvation possible.

IV. OBSERVING THE LORD’S SUPPER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE SELF-EXAMINATION IT REQUIRES-

- a. Many people are good at examining others... and spotting the flaws, failures and shortcomings in the lives of other people.
- b. To use the words of Jesus... many people can look around the log in their own eye...and spot the speck in someone else’s eye from a mile off.
- c. The Bible makes it clear... that before believers participate in the Lord’s Supper... we are to examine our own life.
- d. Before we partake of the Lord’s Supper... we are to carefully, closely and honestly... examine our hearts and our lives... our motives...our attitudes... our actions... for any sin...for any wrong... and for any evil...toward the Lord... or toward others.
- e. We are to examine ourselves for any spirit of bitterness, hatred or unforgiveness toward another believer... or for any sin of which we have not repented.
- f. We are to examine ourselves and see... if we have left our first love for the Lord Jesus... if we have lost our first passion for Christ... if we have grown cold, indifferent and lukewarm toward the Lord Jesus ... in our Christian life... and toward the church.

- g. Observing the Lord's Supper is important... because the Lord's Supper table becomes a special place for the cleansing and purifying of the lives of believers... and the church... as we repent and get right with God.
- h. The Bible warns us... against partaking of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner... without self-examination... without repenting of our sin, bitterness and unforgiveness ... without getting right with God.
- i. While the Lord's Supper is just for believers... there is a three-point sermon in the Lord's Supper for unbelievers.
- j. Point number one... sin is serious... sin separates from God.
- k. Point number two... God loves sinners... Jesus came into the world to take our sin upon Himself and die for us so that we might be forgiven of sin.
- l. Point number three... you can be saved from the penalty of you sins today... a lost life and lost eternity... if you will repent... turn away from your sinful ways... and come to Christ believing in Him and receiving Him as your Savior and Lord.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. Christian... as we observe the Lord's Supper we are to remember Jesus ... and what He has done to make our salvation possible... we are to examine yourself... and get right with God... and get right with others.
- b. Lost person... come to Christ.