

Communion Revisited

This morning I want to talk to you about the Lord's Supper. When Jesus sat and broke bread with his disciples during the celebration of Passover, he gave them bread. When he did this, we see in Matthew 26:26 that he said: "Take, eat; this is my body." After he did this, he then offered the cup and said in Matthew 26:27-28: "And having taken *the* cup and having given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you. For this is My blood of the covenant, being poured out for many, for forgiveness of sins."

Pentecostal believers see the Lord's Supper as a symbol of the cleansing of sin. This is for those who believe in Jesus. It is seen as a consecration unto the Lord and unto fellowship in his body. It is through communion that we recognize the death and resurrection of Jesus and what he has done for us until he comes back.

At the time of Adam and Eve and up until Christ's Sacrifice, God required a blood sacrifice to cover sin. We see this in Genesis 3:21 and Leviticus 17:11. The sacrifice of animals however was only a temporary solution. As soon as you sinned again, another sacrifice was required.

When Jesus came and died upon the cross and was raised again, we have come to learn that his sacrifice paid the price for all our sins - past, present and future. If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us. His death paid our penalties in full.

When we accept Jesus as our personal saviour we are consecrated. This means that we are set apart as the Lord's. Our sins are forgiven because of his sacrifice and we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is a second great work of the Holy Spirit.

We are free, we are forgiven... yet there are times when we may not do the right thing or give in to temptation. When we take communion it will remind us of what he has done for us and what as our Father he expects from us his children. It is a reminder that although we have grace, it has come at a cost. When we take communion we come into fellowship with God and each other and our commitment to obey the one who saves us is renewed.

We are told to examine ourselves. We are told to make it right with our brothers or sisters. In our church, we are family and we are to find support and comfort from one another. We see this in the early church and it is just as important today. We need to encourage each other in our good works and even more as we see the day of the Lords return coming near.

The Lord's Supper is a time for us to partake gratefully, understanding what he has done for us, and what he is doing in each of us.

We find Jesus and his apostles in the upper room during the Passover feast; breaking bread together for the Passover. For those who would like a little background on this: The Passover is to celebrate the Jewish nations release from the slavery of Egypt. Passover of Seder speaks to when the angel of death passed through Egypt and took the firstborn of Egypt. This included Children, Fathers, grandfathers and so on. God kept his people safe by the sacrificing of an unblemished lamb and placing the blood on the doorframe. When the angel of death saw this he passed over those protected by the covenant made in blood with God.

Do you know why Jesus is called the Passover lamb? (1 Cor. 5:7,8). He is the new covenant we have with the Father. His perfect blood was shed so that you could be in right standing with God the Father. He was the sacrifice in Blood that bought you freedom. He took our place on that cross. He shed his blood for you and for me that we could be back in covenantal relationship with The Father. His blood was the price for sin.

Folks, what I really want you to understand this morning is that it is not us or our worthiness that makes us fit for communion. We come to the table boldly because the shed blood of Christ is worth more than God's wrath. Jesus took the feast and communion

Our Father God does NOT ignore sin. He does not overlook it. Sin must be paid for. God's sense of justice and what is right must be satisfied. He is Good and there is no evil in him. The very nature of God could not allow this sin to go unpunished. The bible is clear... The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) Jesus paid the price we could not pay.

When a sacrifice was made, the person making the sacrifice was saying: "What is happening to this animal deserves to happen to me if I break the covenant." In biblical terms the animal is the scapegoat for our transgressions. Jesus took all our sin upon himself.

Let's Pray

Mighty God, we come into your presence today to worship and celebrate you. Lord we are hungry for You – God. Jesus we are hungry for your love, we are hungry for a new way of living, we are hungry for your word.

Jesus thank you for all that you have done for us. Thank you for providing us this building, thank you for this time of worship. We come boldly before your throne oh God because you have made us worthy. We hunger and thirst for your righteousness oh God.

Lord as we come to your table this morning I ask mighty Jesus that you will bless and keep each one here, that you will cause your face to shine upon us, that you will be gracious to us, that you will lift up your countenance upon us and bring us peace.

Pass out the implements

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

The Scripture says: "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. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."

Let us now come to the table of the Lord in the name of the one who said, "I am the bread of life". Our Lord Jesus has done so much for us. It is appropriate and necessary that we take this time to remember how he gave his body and blood to save us.

On the night he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and after giving thanks to God broke it and gave it to his disciples He said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Let us partake of the body of Christ now together.

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me.

Let us partake of the blood of Christ now together.