

The Lord's Supper | Luke 22:14-20 | 8/9/15

- Introduction
 - The Lord's Supper is a very important and significant act of remembrance that we Christians partake of today.
 - Although I think its safe to say that Christians do not always give it the proper respect and admiration that it deserves.
 - Some look to it as something that is just done out of tradition and go through the motions when the time comes.
 - Others even disregard it completely.
 - But as we examine the purpose of the taking of the Lord's Supper as it is given to us in Scripture we see that it is not just a tradition that the Church invented but it was an ordinance or sacrament that Jesus Himself told us to do.
 - And if Jesus told us to do it then He had a holy and divine purpose for doing so.
 - **There are 2 ordinances/sacraments that Jesus commanded for Christians to perform that are physical actions that represent a deeper spiritual truth.**
 - The first is baptism
 - The second is The Lord's Supper
 - As protestant/evangelical Christians we normally scoff at anything that would be seen as a ritual in our worship. However, these 2 are specifically command by Jesus Christ for the Christians to perform.
- **Read Luke 22:14-20**
- The overall purpose for us to observe the Lord's Supper
 - First what the Lord's Supper is not.
 - It is not a requirement for your salvation.
 - It is not a rigid ceremony based purely on physical actions.
 - The physical actions of taking the bread and cup are meaningless if one's heart is not venerating Jesus Christ.
 - **The whole purpose for taking of the bread and the cup, is to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. It is so we will remember His body that was beaten and His blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. It is for us to remember the New Covenant that God has established with us.**
 - "Do this in remembrance of me"
 - The act of taking of the Lord's Supper is the visible symbol where we proclaim the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:26
 - "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."
 - **Why do you think its important that we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross?**
 - Jesus's death on cross was so that He would be the substitute sacrifice for our sins. He took the sin and the punishment that all of mankind rightly deserves and nailed it to the cross.
 - Colossians 2:14
 - "He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross."
 - **We must remember so that we will never forget the sacrifice that Jesus made for us**
 - We continually remember those in the military because of the sacrifices they made.

- **Why do we continually honor and remember them? Why don't we just thank them once?**
 - It would not be appropriate if we only thanked them once, we must do it frequently as a reminder that the sacrifices they made for our country.
 - **But there is one greater sacrifice, the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross His beaten body and the blood that was shed for forgiveness.**
 - He came in the likeness of man, humbled Himself like a slave and was obedient until death. He did this even though we didn't deserve it.
 - Philippians 2:6-8
 - We must remember because that is what our salvation is based upon
 - Our salvation hinges upon our faith in Jesus Christ. We must have faith to believe that He is the Son of God, the Christ, The Messiah who died on the cross for the sins of the world.
- Jesus greatly desired to eat the Passover with His disciples. | Luke 22:15
 - **Read Luke 22:15**
 - Jesus stated that He fervently (meaning having a great desire) to have this Passover with His disciples before His suffering.
 - **So what was this suffering that He spoke of?**
 - Jesus was well aware of what was coming.
 - He knew that He was going to the cross to suffer and die for the sins of man.
 - That this path was not going to be easy and that He would suffer severely by the hands of those He was there to save.
 - Jesus knew He was returning to Heaven after His sacrifice was complete.
 - John 13:1a
 - "Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father..."
 - Jesus knew that His time was short and that His great purpose for coming into the world was getting ready to take place.
 - **So why did Jesus greatly desire to have this last meal with them?**
 - The Scripture doesn't answer this question explicitly but we can infer that:
 - He genuinely loved His disciples and looked forward to one last time to commune with them.
 - John 13:1b
 - "...Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."
 - He desired to prepare them for His forthcoming sufferings and to remind them that He was no longer going to be with them.
 - The primary reason being to institute the Lord's Supper.
 - **What was Jesus foreshadowing when He said that He would not eat of the Passover until it was fulfilled in the kingdom of God?**
 - The next time that Jesus was going to partake in a meal of remembrance like this would be when they are all in heaven together.
- The Passover
 - We see that the Last Supper was instituted by Jesus while they were partaking of the Passover meal. So what then is the Passover?
 - The beginnings of the Passover
 - The Passover like the Lord's Supper was done to remember something specific that God had done.

- It goes all the way back the Book of Exodus when God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians.
 - The last plague that God sent upon the land was the death of the first born.
 - However, God spared the Israelites from the same fate by passing over them which is where Passover comes from.
 - Exodus 12:12-13
 - God then commanded the Israelites to obey this ritual and to pass it down through the generations.
 - Exodus 12:14
 - The Passover required a blood sacrifice.
 - A significant command of the Passover required a blood sacrifice.
 - Exodus 12:21-23
 - They were to always remember what God had done by observing the Passover.
 - Exodus 12:24-28
- **Do you see and similarities between the observance of the Passover and the Lord's Supper?**
- The four cups of the Passover
 - As we read this passage we might notice that there was more than one cup.
 - In proper Jewish observance of the Passover they take of 4 different cups to signify four expressions of redemption describing the Exodus from Egypt.
 - "I will take you out..."
 - "I will save you..."
 - "I will redeem you..."
 - "I will take you as a nation..."
 - The first cup mentioned in Luke is one of the four but not the one Jesus used as the symbol for His blood.
 - The cup of blessing taken after the meal is when Jesus instituted His new command of remembrance.
 - It is this cup that Jesus uses to transform their viewing of the Passover which was in remembrance of God passing over them in Egypt, while the taking of the cup now in the Lord's Supper is to remember Jesus's death and sacrifice upon the cross.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16a
 - "The cup of blessing that we give thanks for, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?..."
 - Jesus has now changed their focus and they have now gone from remembering the Passover to remembering the work of Jesus upon the cross.
 - That work is the ultimate sacrifice and saving act of God that all must remember.
- The Lord's Supper is to be taken up until the Second Coming of Christ | Luke 22:18
 - ***Read Luke 22:18***
 - Jesus said that He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.
 - This is the second coming of Christ that all Christians look forward too.
 - Scripture tell us that we are to do this until He returns.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:26
 - "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **until He comes.**"
 - **Why must we do it until He comes?**
- The breaking of bread | Luke 22:19
 - ***Read Luke 22:19***

- Jesus now shows them the first of the two acts of remembrance that are performed during the Lord's Supper.
- He took the bread and first gave thanks.
 - Giving thanks to God before a meal was a Jewish practice as it was even one of the cups.
 - But Jesus also shows us its importance that we must always give thanks to God before we eat our meals. It is only by God's grace that we have the meal in the first place.
- He broke the bread which is a symbol of His body
 - The bread represents, signifies or is a symbol of the body of Christ. It is a representation of His broken body as he was beaten and put upon the cross.
 - When we take of the bread we see it as a symbol to which we then recall all of the sufferings that Jesus Christ endured.
 - **This reverence for Jesus and what He did takes place within our hearts. But our physical actions proclaim in a visible way what we are feeling.**
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 - **BUT Scripture does not convey that the bread is transformed into the body of Christ.**
 - Catholicism uses this passage to infer their belief in transubstantiation which states that while the external appearance of the bread and wine remain unchanged the inside becomes literally the body and blood of Christ.
 - So that after the change is made by the priest then these items are now "holy".
 - **So when we take of the bread we look to it in remembrance of the suffering that Jesus endured for us. It is the symbol that reminds of His great sacrifice.**
- How does remembering Jesus's physical suffering affect you? What do you feel within your heart?
- It is critical that we truly remember what the bread represents when we take of it and give it the proper reverence and respect.
 - When we take of the Lord's Supper the purpose is to remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ.
 - **We must not be indifferent or only look up on the bread as a tasteless wafer that we struggle to get down.**
 - We must truly in our hearts and minds reflect and remember what Jesus did, remember the sufferings and the pain that He endured for all of the undeserving.
- Do this in remembrance of me
 - If Jesus said to "do this" then that is what we must do.
- The cup of the new covenant established by the blood of Jesus | Luke 22:20
 - **Read Luke 22:20**
 - The cup that Jesus is holding in front of His disciples now has a new meaning and representation.
 - While the bread represented the sufferings of His body, the wine within the cup represents His blood that was shed upon the cross and it also represents the new covenant relationship that God has established with mankind.
 - The shedding of His blood accomplished two things:
 - Forgiveness of sins.
 - Matthew 26:28
 - "For this is My blood that establishes the covenant, it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sin."
 - This was the great purpose that Jesus came to fulfill. To shed His precious blood on the cross for the sins of man.

- It had to be blood as this is required for the forgiveness of sins.
 - Hebrews 9:22
 - “According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”
- This shedding of the blood of Christ was the final sacrifice that would surpass all others.
 - The sacrifice of blood wasn’t a new concept to the Israelites as every year the high priest would enter into the inner most chamber of the tabernacle to make a yearly sacrifice for the sins of the people.
 - Hebrews 9:7
 - “But the high priest alone enters the second room, and he does that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.”
 - However, the blood sacrifice of animals could never permanently remove the sins it was only temporary.
 - Hebrews 10:1-4
 - This is why Jesus Christ shed His blood once and for all.
 - Hebrews 10:10-14
- And with this sacrifice His blood will establish the new covenant
 - The shedding of the blood of Jesus marks a very important event in the relationship between God and man.
 - A new covenant that replaces the old one has been made.
 - The Old Covenant failed not in that God did but the people did not keep it nor obey God as He had commanded.
 - This one contained some of the OT laws and priestly order that was established prior to Jesus Christ. It was a relationship between God and the Israelites.
 - This new covenant however is greater than the first in that this one is spiritual and that all those that that know God will receive salvation.
 - We all can have a personal relationship with God no longer must we go through the priests and have them mediate.
 - Jesus Christ is the only mediator and he lives in our hearts.
 - The old covenant like the new was also made in blood.
 - Exodus 24:8
 - “Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.”
 - Here we have fulfillment of the New Covenant that was foretold by the Prophet Jeremiah long ago.
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - **What sticks out to you that is significant about this new covenant relationship?**
 - **Under this new covenant where does one go to speak with God? How is that different from the Old Covenant?**
 - God will forgive and never remember our sins.
 - No longer do we have to make a continues sacrifice. Jesus’s sacrifice fulfilled the payment for our sins.
 - We have a personal relationship with God.

- The new covenant relationship is what we base our salvation up.
 - It is this New Covenant relationship that we have with God that makes it possible for us to be saved by His grace through our faith in Christ Jesus.
 - It is our faith, our belief that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sin.
 - This new relationship with God allows us to have a deeper relationship with Him.
 - As stated in Jeremiah his teachings will be written on our hearts and we will all know Him, we will all have a personal relationship with Him.
 - God works in our hearts and upon our faith we receive the Holy Spirit and God then lives within us.
 - This relationship is much closer than that of the Old Testament where they had to come to the tabernacle.
- The condition of our heart and mind when we take of The Lord's Supper
 - **Do you think it matters the condition of our heart when we take of communion?**
 - Our heart must be in the right place when we take of The Lord's Supper
 - 1 Corinthians 11:27-32
 - When we observe the Lord's Supper we must take it seriously and we must be certain we are truly remembering what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.