

The Lord's Memorial

(Matthew 26:26-29)

- Introduction:
1. The Lord's supper, which we partake of every week, is a memorial.
 2. If properly observed, the Lord's Supper will help you regain your focus and commitment to Jesus.
 3. In this lesson, I would like for us to consider several matters that might help us have a better understanding of this memorial.

I. The Lord's Supper is not a Sacrament

- A. A sacrament is a religious ritual that allegedly imparts grace.
- B. For instance, a large religious body teaches that "One of the greatest blessings and least known facts about the Eucharist is that, in the reception of holy communion, a person's venial sins are forgiven."
- C. We sometimes sing a song that comes really close to this view – "Come Share the Lord." – "Come, take the bread, Come, drink the wine, Come share the Lord. No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs; Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs."
- D. "Blessing the Bread" (Matthew 26:26).
 1. Jesus is not conferring something upon the bread.
 2. To "bless" simply means to give thanks.
 3. Note verse 27 – He "gave thanks" for the cup.
 4. Compare Paul's summary (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

II. The Lord's Supper is a Memorial

- A. Just as we have national monuments and days set apart to remember important events in our history, so has God done this with spiritual matters.
- B. For example:
 1. The Rainbow (Genesis 9:12-17).
 2. The Passover (Exodus 12:1-14).
 3. The Twelve Stones at Gilgal (Joshua 4:1-9).
- C. Now we have what is called the "Lord's Supper."
 1. The bread is to cause us to remember the body of Jesus.
 2. The cup is to cause us to remember the blood of Jesus.
- D. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- E. But it is a memorial that comes with a warning.
 1. Must be done in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:29-30).
 2. Must be done with self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28).

- Conclusion:
1. May we never forget the essence of worship and fall into the trap of mindless ritualism.
 2. This memorial will either condemn you or strengthen your walk with God.