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LORD'S SUPPER

A Memorial Table

Study #12

Here is a subject that requires careful study of the Word of God. Like baptism, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is generally misunderstood and there seems to have arisen many substitutes for the real thing.

The only references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament are the Gospels' accounts in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20, and in Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians (in which he actually rebukes the church for its serious disorders at the Lord's table) – 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 and 11:17-34.

Lesson Overview

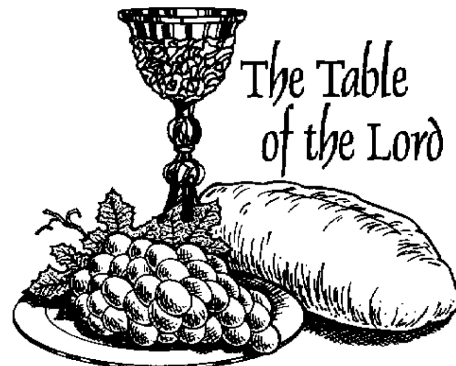
- I. What Is The Lord's Supper?
- II. What Is The Symbolism Of The Lord's Supper?
- III. Who Should Observe The Lord's Supper?
- IV. How Do We Observe The Lord's Supper?
- V. What Does The Bible Say About The Roman Catholic Mass?

Before doing this lesson, carefully read each of these passages above.

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. Notice the Scriptural Terminology

There are only *three* Bible terms:



1. C_____ (1 Corinthians 10:16)
2. The L_____ '___ T_____ (1 Corinthians 10:21)
3. The L_____ '___ S_____ (1 Corinthians 11:20)

The Bible does not use the following terms: “The Mass,” “Holy Communion,” and “Eucharist.”

B. It is an O_____ of the church.

*(1 Cor 11:2) “Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and **keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.**”*

(1 Cor 11:23) “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread. . . .”

What is an ordinance?

It is “an outward rite appointed by Christ to be administered in the church as a visible sign of the saving truth of the Christian faith.”

In 1 Corinthians 11:2 and 23 the connecting phrase “. . . I delivered unto you . . .” shows that the Lord’s Supper is one of those ordinances Paul delivered.

C. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we:

1. Do it in R_____ of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:24, 25).
2. Do S_____ the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:26).

D. Is the observance of the Lord's Supper commanded, or is it a choice?

See: 1
Corinthians
11:24, 25.
It is _____ .

From these Scriptures we conclude that the Lord's Supper is: (Check the correct boxes)

- 1. A Symbol, or
 A Sacrament
- 2. A Means of Grace, or
 A Memorial

II. WHAT IS THE SYMBOLISM OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. The Elements of the Supper

- 1. Unleavened B_____ (Matthew 26:17, 26; 1 Corinthians 11:23)
- 2. The F_____ of the V_____ (Matthew 26:29)

NOTE: 1 Corinthians uses the term, the _____ (1 Corinthians 11:25,26)

B. The Symbolism Of The Bread

The bread pictures the B_____ B_____ of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:24). This reminds us of the terrible suffering of our Lord, though not a bone in His body was broken. Read: Isaiah 52:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Matthew 27:29-31; John 19:31-37.



Remembering
CHRIST

C. The Symbolism Of The Cup

The cup (grape juice) pictures the S_____

B____ of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:25). This reminds us that without the shedding of the blood of Christ, there could be no R_____ of sin (Hebrews 9:22).
Read 1 Peter 1:18,19.

Note: Nowhere does the Bible refer to “wine” as part of the Lord's Supper. Alcoholic (fermented) wine is a result of the action of yeast (leaven). Leaven is a symbol of sin – 1 Corinthians 5:6,7. Thus alcoholic wine and leavened bread would be invalid symbols of the sinless Son of God.

D. The Purpose Of The Lord's Supper

Like the ordinance of baptism, the Lord's Supper is a picture of Jesus Christ.

1. Baptism is a picture of our Lord's D____, B____, and R_____.
2. When we observe the Lord's Supper we set forth symbolically the L____' D_____ until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

III. WHO SHOULD OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. According to Matthew 26:20, who was present when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (during a Passover meal)? _____

B. Look up: 1 Corinthians 11:17-21

The Apostle Paul is rebuking the church at Corinth for turning the simple memorial Supper into a

drunken orgy-type feast. However, note the following:

v.17 – “ye C_____ T_____.”

v.18 – “ye come together in the C_____.”

v.20 – “ye come together into O____
P_____.”

C. According to 1 Corinthians 1:2a, to whom was this letter initially addressed?

“...the C_____ of God which is at C_____.”

D. According to 1 Cor. 12:27,28a, what did this group of people constitute? The C_____

E. Conclusion: The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance. It is given to the Lord's churches to observe.

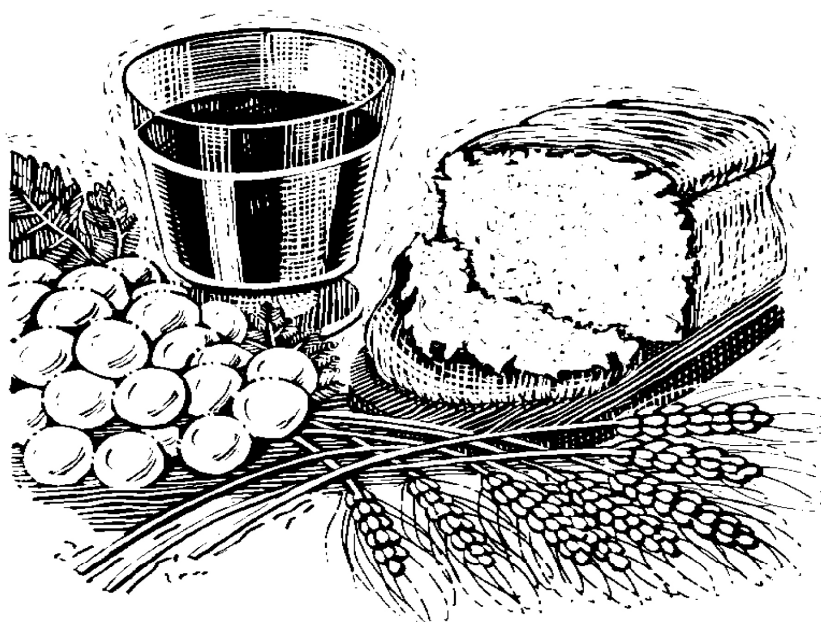
From these verses whom do you conclude the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was given to?

- Any Christian
- The church
- Any organization

IV. HOW DO WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. How Often?

The Bible does not give a definite time to observe the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:26 simply says, “A__ O_____ A__.”)



B. According to 1 Corinthians 11:28, the observance of the Lord's Supper should be preceded by solemn self-E_____.

- **Note:** Eating “*unworthily*” means “in an unworthy manner” as the context shows (verse 29).
- **Note:** The word “*damnation*” means “severe judgment” (even physical death) (verse 30).

C. When observing the Lord's Supper, the elements are distributed to the members, then all eat (or drink) together.

D. Following the observance of the Lord's Supper, the meeting closes with the singing of an H_____ (Matthew 26:30).

V. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC “MASS”?

This section is included because of the vast amount of confusion regarding the meaning and benefit of the Lord's Supper.

A. *What Are Roman Catholics Taught?*

1. The “mass” is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ Who is really present on the altar. The priest offers him to God for the living and the dead.
2. Upon the words of consecration by the priest, “*Hoc est corpus meum,*” the wafer and the alcoholic wine literally change into the real flesh and blood of Christ. This is called “transubstantiation.”
3. That observance of the mass is a means of grace (part of salvation) whereby the person actually eats the real flesh of Jesus. It is a mortal sin to not receive “Holy Communion” at Easter.

B. *How Did This Teaching Originate?*

The doctrine of transubstantiation can be traced to the 9th Century writings of Paschasius Radburtus. It was declared a doctrine by Pope Innocent III in 1215 AD at the Council of Lateran IV. It is “based” upon a misinterpretation of Matthew 26:26-28 and John 6:53-58.

C. *What Does The Bible Have To Say?*

1. Eating blood is forbidden by the Law (Leviticus 17:10; Matthew 5:17).
2. Idolatry is forbidden (1 John 5:21; Exodus 20:4-5). Roman Catholics are taught to worship the “Host.”
3. Jesus spoke symbolically in Matthew 26:26 because He was literally present. “*This is my body*” means “This represents My body.”

An exact word-for-word interpretation of this passage would also require the same for every passage, for example, Matthew 16:23.

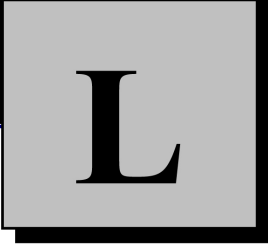
Uh! Oh! (Roman Catholics are also taught that Peter was the first pope, and Jesus just called him Satan!)

4. Jesus explains John 6:53-58 by John 6:63. This passage refers to a spiritual partaking of Jesus Christ, Who is **metaphorically** the “Living Bread” (John 6:51).
5. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was sufficient and once and for all. The continual, repetitious “sacrifice” of Christ by Roman Catholic priests is a denial of the finished work of Christ. See: John 19:30; Hebrews 10:10-12.
6. How can a priest make Christ? The creature cannot make the Creator!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT

- Read your M Lesson (**M**oney) and answer all the questions. Look up the lesson's Bible references in God's Word.
- Continue reading through the New Testament *at your own pace*.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week.
- Give out copies of *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week's session? Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, **M** Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on
_____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You