

“THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER”

I CORINTHIANS 11:23

INTRODUCTION

PROPOSITION: IF WE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, W WOULD BETTER APPRECIATE AND OBEY THE LORD.

MANY TIMES WE MISS THE REAL WORSHIP AND REVERENCE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER BECAUSE WE DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

IN THIS DISCOURSE, I’D LIKE TO MAKE SIX OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE LORD’S SUPPER THAT I BELIEVE WILL MAKE YOU APPRECIATE WHAT JESUS DID FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

I. LET US LOOK AT ITS ORIGIN.

A. WHEN DID THE LORD’S SUPPER ORIGINATE?

- 1. IT ORIGINATED WITH JESUS AS THE INITIATOR WHEN HE WAS BETRAYED BY JUDAS ISCARIOT IN I COR. 11:23.**
- 2. “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.” I COR. 11:23**
- 3. IT OCCURRED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE LORD’S OBSERVANCE OF THE PASSOVER WITH HIS DISCIPLES.**
- 4. IT WAS AS IF JESUS WAS CLOSING THE DOOR OF THE OLD COVENANT AND OPENING THE NEW. MATT. 25:17-26**
- 5. WHAT THE PASSOVER WAS TO THE OLD COVENANT, THE LORD SUPPER IS TO THE NEW COVENANT.**

II. LET US LOOK AT THE NECESSITY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

A. IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1. THERE SHOULD BE NOT DOUBT IN THE BELIEVER'S MIND ABOUT THIS. CHRIST, HIMSELF, MAKES THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER MANDATORY.

2. FOR IT WAS JESUS WHO SAID FOR US TO DO THIS AS STATE IN MATTHEW 26:26-28.

a. [26] "AND AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND BLESSED IT, AND BRAKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, AND SAID, TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY" [27] "AND HE TOOK THE CUP, AND GAVE THANKS, AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, DRINK YE ALL OF IT;"

[28] "FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS." MATT. 26:26-28

III. LET US LOOK AT THE ELIGIBILITY FACTOR. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER? THE PERSONS MUST BE SAVED, BAPTIZED; BELIEVERS AND THOSE WHO ARE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD.

A. THE BELIEVER MUST BE SAVED. "THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME" WAS ADDRESSED TO THE DISCIPLES, NOT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE UNSAVED DO NOT REMEMBER WHAT THEY DO NOT KNOW.

1. "AND AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND BLESSED IT, AND BRAKE IT,

AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, AND SAID, TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY.” MATT 26:26

B. THE BELIEVER MUST BE BAPTIZED. NOTE WHAT LUKE SAID IN ACTS 2:38, 41:

1. [38] **“THEN PETER SAID UNTO THEM, REPENT, AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.”**
[41] **“THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVE HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS.” ACTS 2:38, 41**

C. THE BELIEVER MUST BE IN HARMONIOUS FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD AND HIS FELLOW CHRISTIANS.

1. **“BUT LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF, AND SO LET HIM EAT OF THAT BREAD, AND DRINK OF THAT CUP” [29] “FOR HE THAT EATETH AND DRINKETH UNWORTHILY, EATETH AND DRINKETH DAMNATION TO HIMSELF, NOT DISCERNING THE LORD’S BODY.” I COR. 11:28**
2. **WE MUST CONFESS, FORSAKE ALL DELIBERATE SIN WHEN WE COME TO THE LORD’S TABLE. “WHOEVER PARTAKES OF THE LORD’S SUPPER UNWORTHILY SHALL BE GUILTY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST.”**

IV. LET US LOOK AT THE REGULARITY.

A. HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE PARTAKE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER?

1. **NO SPECIFIC TIME OR FREQUENCY IS BIBLICALLY GIVEN. JESUS JUST SAID:**

a. **“FOR AS OFTEN AS YE EAT THIS BREAD, AND DRINK THIS CUP, YE DO SHEW THE LORD’S DEATH TILL HE COME.” I COR. 11:26**

2. **IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT WE CELEBRATE THIS MEMORIAL ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AS WELL AS MANY OTHER FAITHS.**

3. **THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE MEMORIAL ASPECT OF IT. NOT SO MUCH THE TIME OR FREQUENCY.**

V. **LET US LOOK AT THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD SUPPER. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER? IT IS THAT OF PROVIDING SALVATION. IT IS THAT OF:**

A. **SELF EXAMINATION OR SPIRITUAL INVENTORY. PAUL SAID: “BUT LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF, AND SO LET HIM EAT OF THAT BREAD, AND DRINK OF THAT CUP.” I COR. 11:28**

B. **SPIRITUAL RECOLLECTION. JESUS SAID: “WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BRAKE IT, AND SAID, TAKE, EAT: THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU: THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.” I COR. 11:24**

1. **WE ARE TO NEVER FORGET WHAT HE DID FOR US WHEN HE SHED HIS BLOOD...**

C. **SOUL SAVING PROCLAMATION.**

1. **WE SYMBOLICALLY PROCLAIM TO THE WORLD, THE DEATH OF OUR LORD TO THOSE WHO ARE WITNESSING THIS EVENT. DYING FOR US...WOUNDED FOR US...**

2. **“FOR AS OFTEN AS YE EAT THIS BREAD, AND DRINK THIS CUP, YE DO SHEW THE LORD’S DEATH TILL HE COME.” I COR. 11:26**

VI. LET US LOOK AT THE CONTINUITY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

A. HOW LONG SHOULD THE CHURCH CONTINUE CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1. UNTIL HE COME.

“FOR AS OFTEN AS YE EAT THIS BREAD, AND DRINK THIS CUP, YE DO SHEW THE LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COME. I COR. 11:26

2. YES! UNTIL HE COMES TO CLAIM HIS CHURCH AS A BRIDE. UNTIL WE ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB. AFTER THAT, THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO CELEBRATE THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

3. BECAUSE WE ALL SHALL BE ETERNALLY IN HIS PRESENCE ENJOYING THE PRICELESS PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.

CONCLUSION

YES! THERE IS SIGNIFICANCE TO THE LORD'S SUPPER.

IT IS A MEMORIAL THAT SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN OR TAKEN LIGHTLY.

IT REPRESENTS THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS AND HIS GIVING HIS LIFE SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE.

CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE.

HE DIED SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE. THAT'S WHY THE SONGWRITERS WROTE SONGS LIKE:

**AT THE CROSS
AT THE CROSS, AT THE CROSS,
WHERE I FIRST SAW THE LORD
AND THE BURDEN OF MY HEART ROLLED AWAY
IT WAS THERE BY FAITH, I RECEIVED MY SIGHT
AND NOW I AM HAPPY ALL THE DAY!**

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD
WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SINS? NOTHING BUT THE
BLOOD OF JESUS.
WHAT CAN MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN? NOTHING BUT THE
BLOOD OF JESUS.
OH PRECIOUS IS THY FLOW. THAT MAKES ME WHITE AS
SNOW.
NO OTHER FOUNT I KNOW. NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF
JESUS.

THE BLOOD
THE BLOOD THAT JESUS SHED FOR ME. WAY BACK ON
CALVARY.
THE BLOOD THAT GIVES ME STRENGTH. FROM DAY TO
DAY.
IT WILL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER.
IT REACHES TO THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN.
IT FLOWS TO THE LOWEST VALLEY.
THE BLOOD THAT GIVES ME STRENGTH FROM DAY.
IT WILL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER.

THERE IS POWER
THERE IS POWER, POWER, WONDER WORKING POWER,
IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.
THERE IS POWER, POWER, WONDER WORKING POWER,
IN THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

- A. **POWER TO SAVE THE SINNERS.**
- B. **POWER TO HEAL SIN-SICK DISEASES.**
- C. **POWER TO REGENERATE A NEW HEART.**
- D. **POWER TO CAUSE YOU TO LOVE WHEN YOU WANT TO HATE.**
- E. **POWER TO CAUSE YOU TO BE GLAD WHEN YOU SHOULD BE SORROWFUL.**
- F. **POWER TO CAUSE YOU TO REJOICE WHEN YOU WANT TO WEEP.**
- H. **POWER TO SMILE WHEN YOU WANT TO FROWN.**

- I. POWER TO WALK UPRIGHT IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR ENEMIES.**
- J. POWER TO STAND FAST IN THE MIDST OF A STORM.**
- K. POWER TO HOLD ON WHEN YOU WANT TO GIVE UP.**
- L. POWER TO SAY GOOD THINGS WHEN YOU WANT TO CURSE.**

YES! THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD.

- A. POWER TO CLEAN A SOILED MIND.**
- B. POWER TO PURIFY A DIRTY THOUGHT.**
- C. POWER TO CLEAR A CLOUDY SPIRITUAL VISION.**
- D. POWER TO BE KIND AND NOT MEAN.**
- E. POWER TO FOREBEAR ONE ANOTHER INSTEAD OF THEM GETTING ON YOUR NERVE.**
- F. POWER TO CALM YOU IN THE MIDST OF TURMOIL.**
- G. POWER TO BE GENTLE INSTEAD OF BEING HARSH.**
- H. POWER TO FACE TEMPTATION.**

YES! THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS. WHO IS THIS JESUS?

- A. JESUS IS THE MEDIATOR**
- B. JESUS IS THE INTERCESSOR**
- C. JESUS IS THE COUNSEL**
- D. JESUS IS THE SPOKE MAN**
- E. JESUS IS THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB**
- F. JESUS IS THE SCAPEGOAT**
- G. JESUS IS THE ATONEMENT**

- H. JESUS IS THE REDEEMER**
- I. JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR**
- J. JESUS IS THE DELIVERER**
- K. JESUS IS THE SHEPHERD**
- L. JESUS IS THE MESSIAH**
- M. JESUS IS THE PASSOVER**
- N. JESUS IS THE LIBERATOR**
- O. JESUS IS THE FORGIVER**
- P. JESUS IS THE GO BETWEEN**
- Q. JESUS IS THE PACEMAKER**
- R. JESUS IS THE AMBASSADOR**
- S. JESUS IS THE EXONERATOR**
- T. JESUS IS THE JOY**
- U. JESUS IS THE HOPE**
- V. JESUS IS THE COMPANY KEEPER**
- W. JESUS IS A FRIEND**
- X. JESUS IS A LOVER**
- Y. JESUS IS A SUSTAINER**
- Z. JESUS IS A PROVIDER**

DO YOU KNOW HIM? HAS HE DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU?