

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

I CORINTHIANS 11: 24-30

INTRODUCTION

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, WE WILL BE PARTAKING IN SOME SERIOUS BUSINESS THAT WAS BEGUN LONG AGO WHILE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE IN THE UPPER ROOM.

IN A FEW MINUTES, WE SHALL BE PARTAKING OF WHAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN TO MANY OF US AS "*THE LORD'S SUPPER.*"

YES, IN A LITTLE WHILE, WE SHALL BE EATING THE BREAD AND DRINKING OF THE WINE WHICH REPRESENTS JESUS BROKEN BODY AND HIS SHED BLOOD.

ACCORDING TO THE APOSTLE PAUL, IN OUR TEXT, WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO CAN HELP US OR HURT US.

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO PARTAKE OF CAN CAUSE OUR SOULS TO BE DAMNED, IF WE FAIL TO TAKE IT AS IT SHOULD BE TAKEN.

PAUL SAID, IF YOU DON'T TAKE IT RIGHT, IT CAN CAUSE YOU TO GET SICK AND MANY CAN FALL WEAK AND BECOME SICKLY AMONG US, AND EVEN SOME CAN DIE.

BUT IF, YOU WILL SUBMIT TO HIS GRACIOUS RULE, YOU WILL REAP THE BENEFITS OF HIS REIGN.

- 1. YOU WILL ENTER INTO TRUE LIFE.**
- 2. YOU WILL FIND COMFORT WHEN YOU ARE DEVASTATED AND SAD.**
- 3. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE MERCY WHEN YOU FAIL**
- 4. YOU WILL FIND EARTH AS YOUR INHERITANCE**
- 5. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE FULL.**

6. YOU WILL KNOW THE PRIVILEGE OF LIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD

7. YOU WILL KNOW GOD, TODAY AND FOREVER

THAT'S HOW SERIOUS THIS THING CALLED "*THE LORD'S SUPPER*," REALLY IS.

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO IS "SERIOUS BUSINESS." AND I THINK I NEED TO TELL YOU THAT, BECAUSE WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS BUSINESS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS. AMEN.

I AM CONVINCED THAT WHEN IT COMES TO "*THE LORD'S SUPPER*," MANY FOLK IN OUR CHURCHES ALL ACROSS OUR NATION AND WORLD SIMPLY GO THROUGH THE MOTION.

I AM CONVINCED THAT IT IS RECEIVED BY A GREAT MANY WHO DON'T RECEIVE IT WITH THE SERIOUSNESS AND THE REVERENCE THAT IT IS DUE.

FROM DAY ONE, I HAVE TAUGHT YOU, FIRST SUNDAY AFTER FIRST SUNDAY THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SACRED PARTS OF OUR WORSHIP.

IT'S SO SERIOUS UNTIL THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD A FEW REMARKS TO MAKE CONCERNING IT IN CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 11.

HE WRITES HIS FIRST OF TWO LETTERS TO THE SAINTS AT THE CHURCH OF CORINTH.

THE CHRISTIANS AT CORINTH RECEIVED WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL REGARDING WHAT YOU AND I ARE SHORTLY GOING TO DO.

AND PAUL SAYS, IT COULD KILL THEM IF THEY EAT AND DRINK THIS AND DO IT WRONGLY.

IN OTHER WORD THAT WHICH COULD BE A BLESSING CAN TURN INTO POISON, BECAUSE THE LORDS SUPPER IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!

REV. WHY IS IT SO SERIOUS?

- I. FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE JESUS INSTITUTED IT AND IT IS SYMBOLIC OF JESUS' BODY.**
- A. THE SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT JESUS WAS WITH HIS DISCIPLES IN THE UPPER ROOM.**
- 1. HE TOOK BREAD AND BREAK IT AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES AND TOLD THEM TO TAKE AND EAT.**
- B. NOW, AT THAT POINT, AND JUNCTURE, "THIS IS NO LONGER BREAD,"**
- 1. JESUS TELLS US IN [VERSE 24], THAT IT WAS TRANSFORMED INTO HIS BODY, "THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU."**
 - 2. NOW, NOTICE THAT HE SAID, "MY BODY," YOU ARE EATING MY BODY,**
 - 3. THE BODY THAT HAS BEEN BATTERED AND BRUISED,**
 - 4. THE BODY THAT WAS BROKEN FOR YOU "MY BODY." AND THAT MAKES IT PERSONAL.**
 - 5. HIS BODY WAS BROKEN FOR ME AND YOU.**
- C. FOR YOU SEE, YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD SUPPER UNLESS YOU ARE TAKING THIS SITUATION PERSONALLY.**
- 1. IT'S SUPPOSE TO BE A PERSONAL THING BETWEEN YOU AND JESUS.**
 - 2. HE SAYS, "*THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.*"**
- D. NOW SOMEBODY MIGHT ASKED IS IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE LORD SUPPER?**
- 1. YES, FOR YOU SEE, TWO WORDS SETTLE THAT ISSUE. TWO WORDS ANSWER THAT QUESTION.**

2. AND THEY WERE WORDS THAT CAME FROM JESUS "THIS DO."
 3. THAT SETTLES IT! WHEN JESUS SAYS, "THIS DO," *GET GOING!* "THIS DO" SETTLES THE QUESTION.
 4. AND WE'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION, SAID MANY TIMES, "*GOD SAID IT, I BELIEVE IT, AND THAT SETTLES IT.*"
 5. WELL, THE LORD SAID IT, WHETHER WE BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THAT STILL SETTLES IT!
 6. JESUS SAID, "THIS DO" AND NONE OF US ARE SO BIG, THAT WE'RE BIG ENOUGH TO EXEMPT OURSELVES FROM THE BLESSINGS OF GOD NOR FROM WHAT JESUS SAID WE SHOULD DO.
 7. THIS DO! THAT SETTLES IT ALL!
 8. DON'T YOU GO AROUND MISSING WHAT THE LORD TOLD US TO DO! "THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM!"
- I. FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE JESUS INSTITUTED IT AND IT IS SYMBOLIC OF JESUS' BODY.
 - II. WELL, HE WANTS US TO STAY REMINDED OF THE TREMENDOUS PRICE THAT HE PAID, AND THE AWESOME SACRIFICE, THAT HE MADE FOR YOU AND ME.
 - A. OH BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HE DOES NOT WANT US TO FORGET THAT HE GAVE HIS HANDS TO THE NAILS, HIS FEET TO THE SPIKES, HIS SIDE TO THE SPEAR, AND HIS BROW TO THE THORNS.
 1. HE DOESN'T WANT US TO FORGET, WHAT HE HAD DONE FOR US.
 2. AND ONE SONG WRITER WROTE A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US AND I LOVE WHAT HE SAID,

- a. **"JESUS I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME. JESUS I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU SET ME FREE. JESUS I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU BROUGHT ME OUT."**
3. **YES, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT CHILDREN OF GOD DON'T NEED TO FORGET. AND, HE SAYS, *"THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."***
- C. NOW YOU HAVE CERTAIN PEOPLE, WHO WILL QUICKLY SAY, "I DIDN'T TAKE IT BECAUSE I KNEW THAT THINGS WEREN'T RIGHT BETWEEN ME AND SO AND SO."**
1. **WELL, THE FIRST SUNDAY COMES EVERY MONTH, AND IF THINGS AREN'T RIGHT, GET THEM RIGHT SO YOU CAN DO WHAT THE LORD SAID.**
 2. **DON'T WALK AROUND AND GIVE YOURSELF SOME *'BROWNIE POINTS'* BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T TAKE IT.**
 3. **IT'S JUST AS BAD *NOT* TO TAKE IT AS IT IS TO TAKE IT WRONGLY.**
 4. **I JUST WANT TO TEACH YOU. DON'T TAKE THIS THING LIGHTLY.**
 5. **NOBODY NEEDS TO BE IGNORANT MESSING AROUND WITH THIS! BECAUSE THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS AND JESUS SAID WE OUGHT TO DO IT.**
- D. JESUS SAID, "THIS DO." AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THEM THE BREAD AND THEY HAD RECEIVED IT, SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT, "WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS," HE TOOK THE CUP AND GAVE IT UNTO THEM, SAYING, *"DRINK YE ALL OF IT. FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SIN"* [MATT. 26:27-28].**
1. **NOW, IT'S *ALL* ABOUT JESUS! *"THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."***

2. AND YOU CAN'T SAY J-E-S-U-S, WITHOUT SAYING US, DON'T SAY IT WITHOUT PUTTING SOME EMPHASIS ON THE US.
3. THERE ARE SOME US IN JESUS.
4. YOU CAN'T SAY JESUS WITHOUT SAYING US.
5. FOR YOU SEE, HE JUST DIDN'T DIE FOR YOU, HE DIED FOR US.
6. HE JUST DIDN'T DIE FOR TWO OR THREE; HE DIED FOR EACH ONE OF US.
7. HE DIED WITH US IN MIND!
8. HE DIED FOR US TO REACH WAY OVER THERE AND CATCH THE DEACONS!
9. HE DIED FOR US TO REACH WAY OVER THERE AND CATCH THE CHOIR MEMBERS.
10. HE DIED FOR US TO REACH WAY BACK THERE AND CATCH THE USHERS ON THE BACK WALL.
11. HE DIED US ! YOU WEREN'T LEFT OUT WHEN HE DIED. HE DIED FOR US ! ALL OF US !
12. THE PERSON THAT YOU MAY LOOK AT FUNNY, THE PERSON THAT YOU MAY TURN YOUR NOSE
13. THAT GIRL ON THE STREET CORNER TURNING TRICKS, HE DIED FOR HER!
14. THAT PIMP THAT HAS HER OUT THERE, HE DIED FOR HIM!
15. THAT BOY OR THAT GIRL THAT'S STRUNG OUT ON CRACK, HE DIED FOR THEM!
16. HE DIED FOR US !

- E. AND OH BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT PAUL WRITES THIS PORTION IN A LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS, BECAUSE THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN THEIR CHURCH.**
- 1. AND HE WANTED THEM TO *NOT* LET THE LORDS SUPPER *JUST* BECOME MERE CEREMONY, OR *JUST* MERE RITUALISM.**
 - 2. BUT HE WANTED IT TO BE SOMETHING THAT WAS:**
 - a. A DEEP AND REVERENT MOMENT,**
 - b. A MOVING MOMENT,**
 - c. A STIRRING MOMENT,**
 - d. A TIME WHEN THEY REMEMBERED,**
 - e. A TIME WHEN THEY WERE REMINDED,**
 - f. A TIME WHEN THEY RECOLLECTED WHAT HAPPENED ON CALVARY.**
 - g. YOU WILL STAY HUMBLE IF YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED ON CALVARY.**
 - h. YES, IT'S HUMBLING, IT'S MOVING, AND IT'S STIRRING WHEN YOU REMEMBER.**
- F. AND PAUL SAYS, BE CAREFUL *"FOR WHOSOEVER, SHALL EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP OF THE LORD UNWORTHILY EATETH AND DRINKETH DAMNATION UNTO THEMSELVES."* I**
- 1. IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER. ITS SERIOUS BUSINESS.**
 - 2. YOU CAN DAMN YOUR OWN SOUL IF YOU DON'T DO THIS IN THE RIGHT WAY, IN A WAY THAT BRINGS, GLORY TO GOD.**

- G. PAUL GOES ON TO SAY, "BEFORE YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP," THERE IS SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO TAKE PLACE. THERE OUGHT TO BE "SELF-EXAMINATION."**
- 1. WELL NOW, THERE ARE A GREAT MANY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD ABOUT EXAMINING OTHER FOLKS, BUT THEY ARE POOR WHEN IT COMES TO EXAMINING SELF.**
 - 2. THERE ARE A GREAT MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN QUICKLY POINT OUT THE DEFECTS, THE FLAWS, AND THE FAULTS IN OTHERS.**
 - 3. THEY CAN QUICKLY PICK UP ON THE SPIRITUAL I'S UN-DOTTED, THE SPIRITUAL T'S UNCROSSED IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. BUT THEY FAIL TO EXAMINE SELF.**
 - 4. NOW PAUL SAYS, "BEFORE YOU EAT THIS, DON'T JUST RUSH IN HERE, GRAB SOME BREAD AND SWALLOW IT AND TAKE THE GRAPE JUICE AND SWALLOW IT AND WIPE YOUR MOUTH AND BE THROUGH! EXAMINE YOURSELF.**
 - 5. [VERSE 28] SAYS, "*AND SO THEN LET HIM EAT OF THAT BREAD AND DRINK OF THAT CUP,*"**
- H. AFTER YOU HAVE EXAMINED SELF. BUT, HERE'S THE THING ABOUT SELF-EXAMINATION THAT YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH.**

ILLUSTRATION

WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL EVER SO OFTEN, MY TEACHERS WOULD AFFORD ME AND THE OTHER STUDENTS THE LUXURY OF GRADING OUR OWN PAPERS.

NOW THEY DIDN'T DO IT FREQUENTLY, BUT ON OCCASION THEY WOULD LET US GRADE OUR OWN PAPERS.

BUT HERE'S THE THING, WHEN YOU'RE GRADING YOUR OWN PAPER, THERE'S ALWAYS THE TEMPTATION TO GIVE YOU SELF A HIGHER SCORE THAN YOU DESERVE.

HELP ME NOW! PAUL SAYS "*LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF.*"

NOW WHEN YOU EXAMINE YOURSELF AND YOUR LIFE, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO KNOW, THAT NO MATTER HOW GOOD ANY OF US ARE, PASTOR SIMMONS INCLUDED. IF YOU PROPERLY EXAMINE YOURSELF, YOU WON'T GO AWAY WITH AN "A!"

NO, NO! IF YOU THINK YOU'VE MADE AN "A." IF YOU SAID THAT YOU MADE AN "A." I DON'T MEAN TO BUST YOUR BUBBLE BUT YOU'RE LYING, NOW I GOT TO TELL IT LIKE IS T-I-S!

THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, "*WHEN WE THINK OURSELVES TO BE SOMETHING WHEN WE ARE NOTHING, WE ARE A LIAR AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US.*" [1 JOHN 2:4]

- I. **AIN'T NOBODY IN HERE MAKING AN "A." FROM THE PULPIT TO THE DOOR!**
 1. **BUT LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF AND THEN LET HIM EAT OF THAT BREAD AND DRINK OF THAT CUP. IT SAYS, "*FOR HE THAT EATETH AND DRINKETH UNWORTHILY, EATETH AND DRINKETH DAMNATION UNTO HIMSELF.*"**
- I. **FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE JESUS INSTITUTED IT AND IT IS SYMBOLIC OF JESUS' BODY.**
- II. **WELL, HE WANTS US TO STAY REMINDED OF THE TREMENDOUS PRICE THAT HE PAID, AND THE AWESOME SACRIFICE, THAT HE MADE FOR YOU AND ME.**
- III. **NOW NOTICE HOW HE CLOSES OUT [VERSE] [29] "*NOT DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY.*"**
 - A. **WHAT IS THE MEANING OF NOT DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY?**
 1. **HERE'S WHAT HE MEAN, WHEN YOU EAT AND DRINK AND YOUR FOCUS ISN'T ON JESUS.**

2. WHEN YOU PUT THAT BREAD IN YOUR MOUTH, WHEN YOU DRINK THE CONTENTS OF THAT CUP WHICH REPRESENTS HIS BLOOD! AND YOUR FOCUS IS NOT ON THE LORD AND IT'S NOT ON HIS DEATH.

B. WELL, YOUR MIND IS SUPPOSED TO BE TUNED IN TO CALVARY;

1. YOU SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON JESUS AND WHAT HE'S DONE FOR YOU!

2. YES YOU OUGHT TO BE THINKING ABOUT HIM HANGING ON THE CROSS, BLEEDING AND DYING.

3. YOU OUGHT TO BE THINKING ABOUT HIM HANGING THERE IN AGONY.

4. AND IF YOU EAT AND DRINK AND YOUR MIND IS ON THE WORLD SERIES, THE SUPER BOWL OR THE BASKETBALL PLAYOFF, YOU'RE EATING AND DRINKING NOT DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY.

5. WHEN YOU EAT AND DRINK NOT DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY, IF IT'S NOT IN YOUR THOUGHTS, IF IT'S NOT ON YOUR MIND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU RUN THE RISK OF BRINGING DAMNATION UNTO YOURSELF.

C. NOW LET ME TELL YOU THIS, YOU CAN'T EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK OF THIS CUP LOOKING AND WONDERING WHO'S SITTING WITH WHOM, WHO'S WEARING WHAT OR WHO YOU DON'T LIKE.

1. YOU CAN'T BE SITTING IN HERE RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD WITH YOUR MIND ON WHO MISTREATED YOU.

2. YOUR MIND IS SUPPOSED TO BE ON JESUS WHO DIED FOR YOU AND NOT THE ONE WHO MISTREATED YOU.

3. **YOUR MIND IS SUPPOSED TO BE ON JESUS.**
4. **YES YOU OUGHT TO BE THINKING ABOUT THE CROSS, WHERE HE DIED.**

D. YOU NEED TO FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS.

1. **WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO GO WRONG, FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS!**
2. **WHEN YOUR JOB GETS YOU DOWN, FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS!**
3. **WHEN PEOPLE DON'T REACT THE WAY YOU THINK THEY SHOULD, FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS.**
4. **WHEN YOUR MONEY IS FUNNY AND THE BILLS ARE OVERDUE, FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS.**
5. **WHEN YOU'RE TEMPTED TO GIVE FOLK PIECES OF YOUR MIND, FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS.**
6. **WHEN PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, FOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS.**
7. **YES, JESUS OUGHT TO BE THE CENTER PIECE OF OUR THOUGHTS WHEN WE EAT AND DRINK THIS SUPPER.**

E. NOW, NOTICE THAT PAUL GOES ON TO [VERSE 30], IN CLOSING AND SAYS, *"IT'S FOR THIS REASON, IT'S FOR THIS CAUSE THAT MANY ARE WEAK AND SICKLY."*

1. **SOME OF OUR SICKNESS CAN BE BROUGHT ON BY DISHONORING THE LORD'S SUPPER. IT'S IN THE BOOK.**
2. **YOU CAN PUT YOURSELF IN THE HOSPITAL IF YOU DON'T HANDLE IT RIGHT.**
3. **YES, IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE THIS THE WAY YOU OUGHT TO!**

4. PAUL SAYS TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH, *"IT IS FOR THIS REASON,"* THIS IS WHY SOME OF YOU ARE SICK AND SOME OF YOU ARE WEAK, AND FEEBLE BECAUSE YOU'RE EATING AND DRINKING THE LORD SUPPER AND YOUR MIND IS NOT ON JESUS.
 5. AND HE GOES ON AND SAYS, *"IT'S SO SERIOUS THAT MANY SLEEP."*
- F. NOW I THINK YOU OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND SLEEP.
1. HE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT SLEEP THAT WE DID LAST NIGHT.
 2. HE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT SLEEP THAT WE WOKE UP FROM THIS MORNING.
 3. HE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT SLUMBER.
 4. HE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT KIND OF SLEEP.
 5. BUT, PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT DEATH.
 6. IF YOU DON'T EAT THE BODY AND RECEIVE THE BLOOD OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE FASHION THAT YOU SHOULD, IT CAN BRING ON DEATH!
- G. NOW WHEN YOU TAKE THE LORD SUPPER I WANT YOU TO DO IT WITH:
1. A SPIRIT OF INTENSITY,
 2. A SENSE OF AWARENESS,
 3. A SENSE OF CONSCIOUSNESS,
 4. A SENSE ONENESS,
 5. A SENSE OF REVERENCE!

- H. YES, RECEIVING HIS BODY AND HIS BLOOD WITH WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE, BECAUSE THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS !
1. HIS BODY IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 2. HIS BLOOD IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 3. HIS DEATH IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 4. IS BURIAL IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 5. HIS RESURRECTION IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 6. HIS CROSS ON CALVARY'S MOUNTAIN IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 7. HIS COMING BACK IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
 8. BROTHERS AND SISTERS THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.
 9. WE SHOULD HAVE REVERENCE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER !