The Gospel and The Lord's Supper

1 Cor. 11:17-34

1 Cor. 11:17-22

- 17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.
- 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.
- 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.
- 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.
- 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.
- 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

1 Cor. 11:23-26

- 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;
- 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

• 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Cor. 11:27-34

- 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
- 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
- 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.
- 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.
- 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.
- 33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
- 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.





Reminds Us of Christ in the Past

The Night in which He was betrayed

- What kind of night was it?
- It was a Passover meal

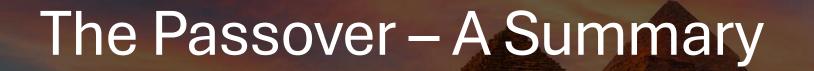


The Night in which He was betrayed

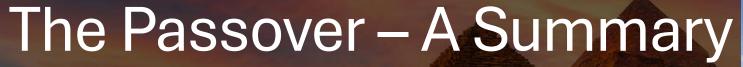


- What kind of night was it?
- It was a Passover meal
- At Passover, usually one of the children asks a question
- Why is this night unlike all other nights?
- What makes this night different than all other nights?
- Because it was referring back to the great act of liberation in which God brought the Israelites out of Egypt





- Back in Egypt, the Israelites were slaves
- The king of Egypt, Pharaoh, would not liberate them

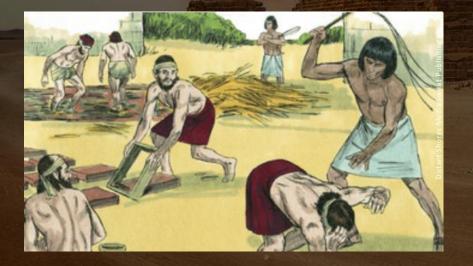


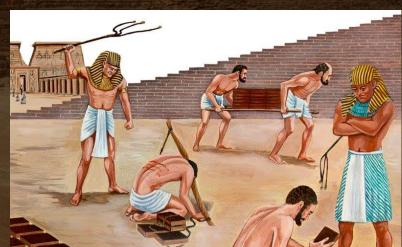
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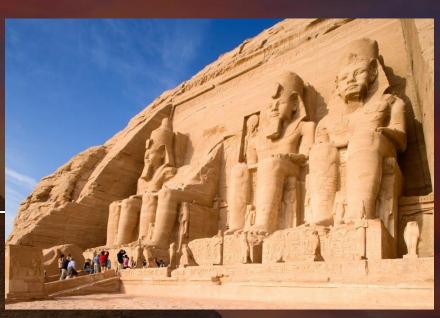


The Passover – A Summary

- Back in Egypt, the Israelites were slaves
- The king of Egypt, Pharaoh, would not liberate them







The Passover – A Summary

- Therefore, God sent the angel of death to Egypt
- What God was doing on a mini scale, he was bringing down the sort of divine justice, which is something that at the end of time on judgment day is going to put everything right
- However, because of what Egypt had done, God allowed a preview of that judgment day



Divine Judgment

- Now the Israelites were human beings like the Egyptians
- They were subject to divine justice and divine judgment as anybody else
- So how were they going to survive the angel of death?



The Passover Lamb

- God's command
- In every town, in every home, the Israelite family must come together and must eat a feast of a meal
- They must slay a lamb, eat the lamb, and put the blood on the doorposts of their home



They take shelter under the blood of the lamb



- The lamb dies instead of anyone inside the home
- And so when the angel of death comes and sees the blood on the doorpost, the angel of death will pass over the family and they will be saved

When I see the Blood... I will pass over you

 And as a result, because they took shelter under the blood of the lamb, because the lamb died instead of anyone inside the home, the Israelites were saved and they were liberated and they were brought out



Exodus 12:12-13

- 12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.
- 13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.



A Perpetual Memorial

 Exodus 12 says there must be a perpetual memorial that must never be changed, that once a year this meal will remember that incredible, wonderful, and great liberation

Until the night on which Jesus was betrayed



A Change at the Passover

- Because the night He was betrayed, it was a Passover night and He was presiding
- But He immediately began to make changes, which is an incredibly audacious thing to do when you consider that Moses said, this must never be changed
- We must look back to this great act of salvation



Bread of My Affliction

- Because the first thing that the Lord Jesus did was to talk about the bread
- But instead of saying, as the presider might say, this
 is the bread of our affliction that we ate in the
 wilderness, He took the unleavened bread and said,
 this is My body, this is the bread of My affliction
 broken for you



Where was the lamb at the Lord's Supper?

There was no lamb at the Lord's Supper

• Why?



Led as a Lamb to the slaughter

Isaiah 53:6-7

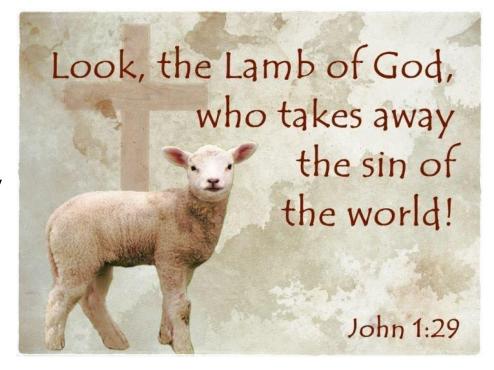
6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.



Lamb of God

- And on the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus Christ said, I am He
- This is my body, this is my blood, I'm the main course
- What he was saying is, I'm the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world
- My death is the climactic event toward which everything in the history of salvation has been moving until now



The Sacrifice to end all Sacrifices

 Every sacrifice, every liberation, every prophet, every priest, every king, every deliverer has all been pointing to Me

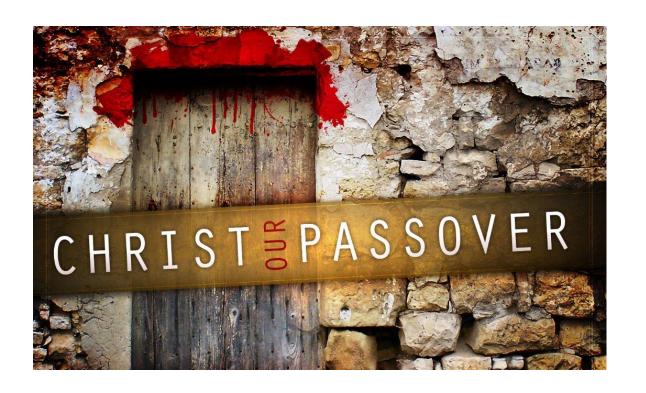
 This is the night unlike all other nights

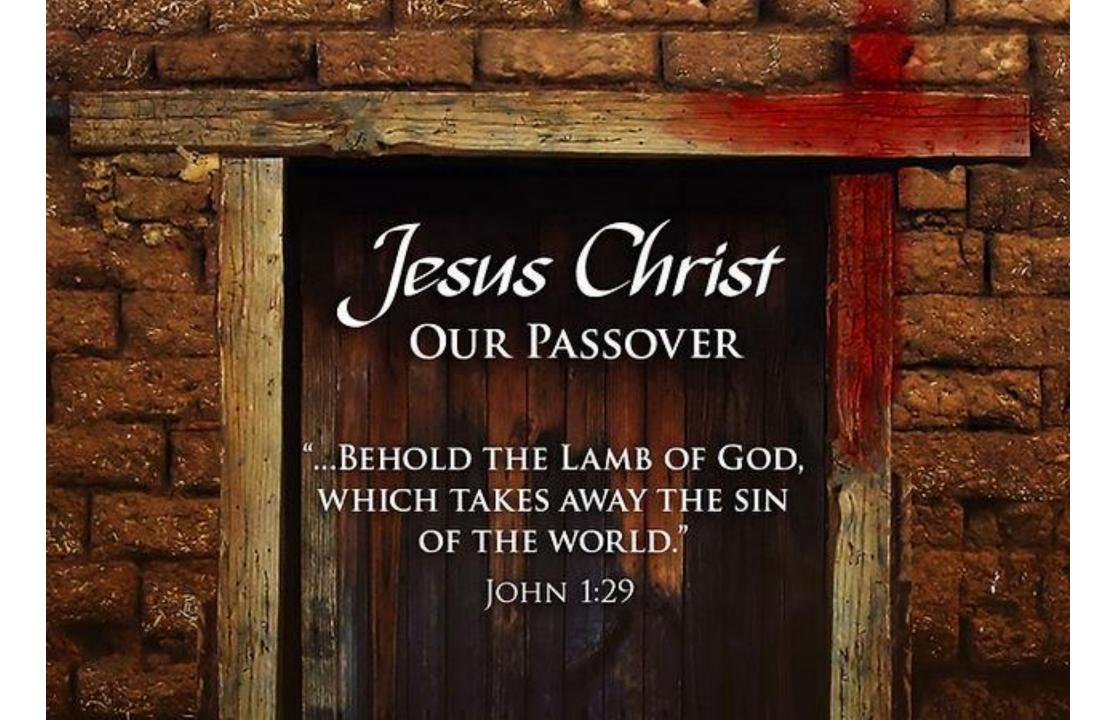
 On this Passover night, I am going to deal with sin and death itself



1 Corinthians 5:7

 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.







The Lord's Supper connects us to the past

 When we take the bread and the cup, there is a direct connection between what is happening now and what is happening on that night









Recalibrates Us to Christ in the Present





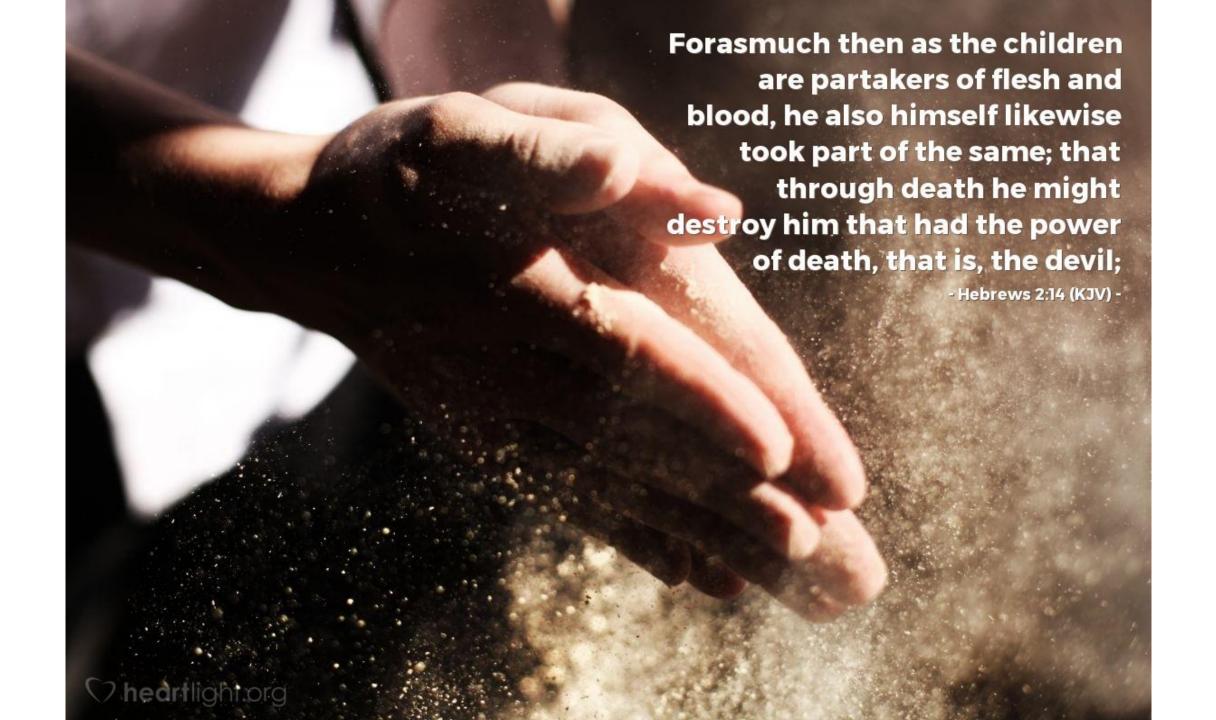


"A body You have prepared for Me"

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,

But a body You have prepared for Me.



Cup

• 1 Cor. 11:25

• 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Blood symbolises Life

- Leviticus 17:11
- 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'



Ratified in blood







Exodus 24:6-8

- 6 And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.
- 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."
- 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."

The Mediator's Death Necessary

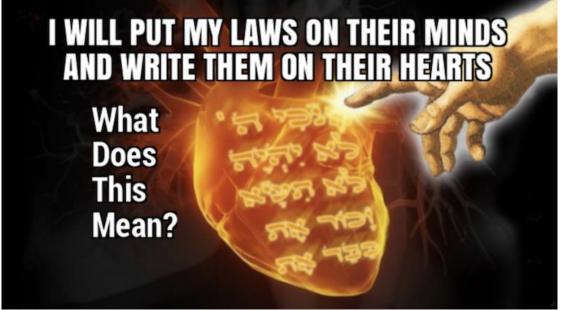
- Hebrews 9:16-22
- 16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.
- 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.
- 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.
- 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,
- 20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."
- 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.
- 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.



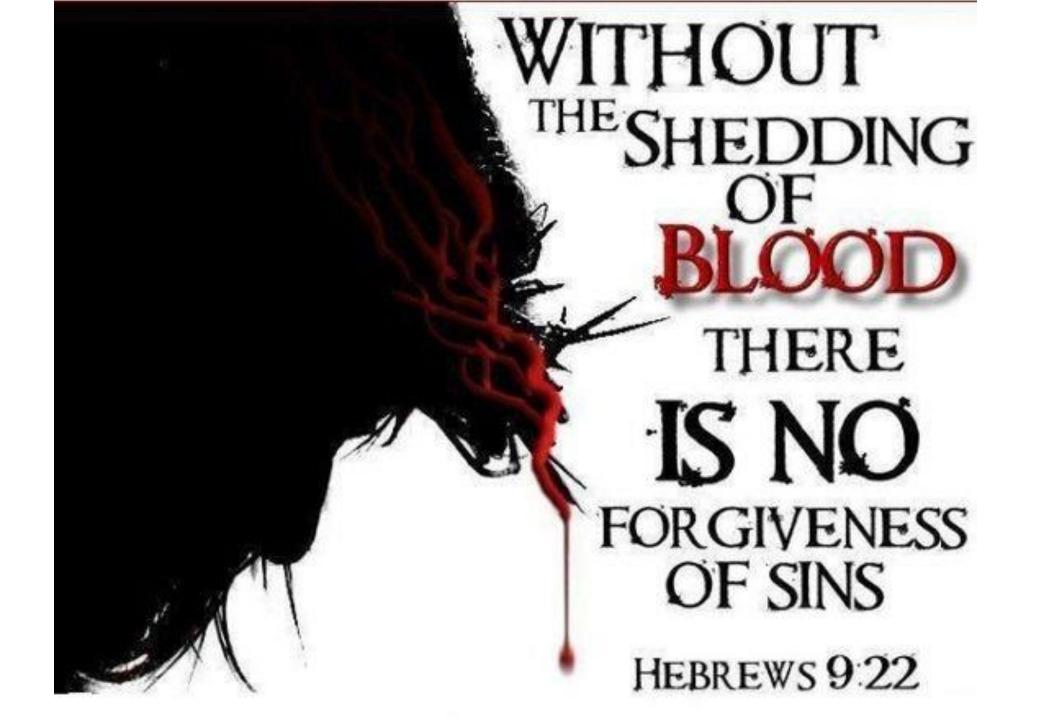
New Covenant

- Jeremiah 31:33
- 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.









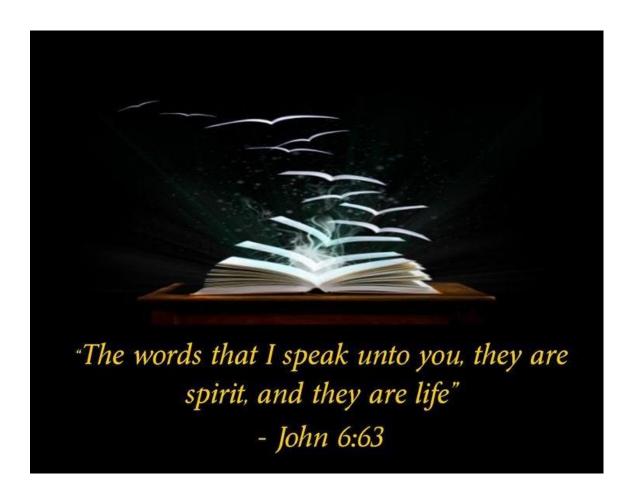
John 6:51-58



- 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."
- 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"
- 53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

John 6:63

 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.



My Words

- Many people who heard him were offended
 - You have to eat My flesh and drink My blood they leave
 - The Lord Jesus says, I'm not talking about the flesh. The flesh means nothing.
 The words I have spoken are spirit and they are life
- Is the Lord Jesus alluding to the Lord's Supper?
 - When people start to say, are you talking literally, He says, no
 - He was speaking figuratively
 - He says, what I'm talking about is feeding on my words
 - My words are spirit, My words are life

Feeding on My Words?





Feeding on My Words

- I don't want you to just believe My words
- I don't want you to just believe that I love you
- I don't want you to just believe that I died on the cross
- I don't want you to just believe the Gospel



Feeding on My Words

- I don't want you to just believe My words
- I don't want you to just believe that I love you
- I don't want you to just believe that I died on the cross
- I don't want you to just believe the Gospel
- I want you to feed on them
- I want you to drink them
- His Word the Gospel needs to be in infused in us!



Feeding on My Words

- You need to digest it
- It needs to become part of you
- It needs to saturate you
- It needs to come in and shape the way in which you think of yourself and think of the world and think of your people around you and think of everything
- God will spiritually graft His truth, His Gospel, His grace into you



What the Essence of the Supper is Not



What the Essence of the Supper is Not

Ritualism

Ritualism

Transubstantiation

 The teaching that the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ

Consubstantiation

 Presence of the body and blood of Christ co-existing in and with the bread and wine



What is Transubstantiation?

- The belief that the invisible substance of the bread becomes the literal actual body of Jesus
- Attributes of bread but substance of Christ's human flesh
- Matt. 26:26 "Take eat, this is my body"



Problem #1 with Transubstantiation

- His body was literally holding the bread
- 1 Cor. 11:24
- 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."



Problem #2 with Transubstantiation

- We sacrifice him all over again
- Hebrews 9:25-28
- 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

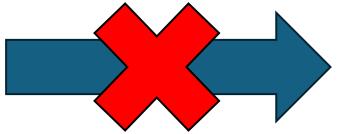


Problem #3 with Transubstantiation

- "This cup is the new testament in My blood"
- Not "this wine is the new testament..."
- How can the cup be the actual blood of the Lord?







Salvation

What the Essence of the Supper is Not



Literalism

- When we take it into our hands and upon our lips, it is a means of living contact with Jesus Christ
- That Christ communicates
 Himself to the believer in a
 special way spiritually and
 we experience the real
 presence of the Lord



Literalism

- Problem with this view
 - We do not receive anything of a special nature, either physical or spiritual
 - We come to give God our appreciation, not to receive anything from Him



What the Essence of the Supper is Not



Formalism

- Corinth
- Despite its dreadful condition, still continued to break bread
- The members despite taking each other to court, marked by gluttony and drunkenness
- Yet, seemingly without conscience, partook of the emblems which were intended to express their sacred fellowship in the Lord



Formalism

 It is possible to break bread and not remember the Lord, to go through the physical actions of eating and drinking



What the Essence of the Supper is





• This do so that you may be saved?



- This do so that you may be saved?
- This do so that you may have fellowship with Me?



- This do so that you may be saved?
- This do so that you may have fellowship with Me?
- This do so that you may experience My presence?



"This do..."

- This do so that you may be saved?
- This do so that you may have fellowship with Me?
- This do so that you may experience My presence?
- This do in remembrance of Me



"This do..."

- This do sat y ay be saved?
- This do s
 fellowship
- This do y experience My prese?

• This do in **remembrance of Me**



In Remembrance of Me

- 1 Cor. 11:24-25
- 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,
- "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you;
- do this in **remembrance** of Me."
- 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying,
- "This cup is the new covenant in My blood.
- This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Remembrance

- ανάμνησις
- anamnēsis
- an-am'-nay-sis
- G364
- From G363; recollection: remembrance (again).





Amnesia

• The loss of memories, including facts, information and experiences



"An-amnesia"

- Reestablish connections with events in our memory
- The opposite of amnesia





Physical beings

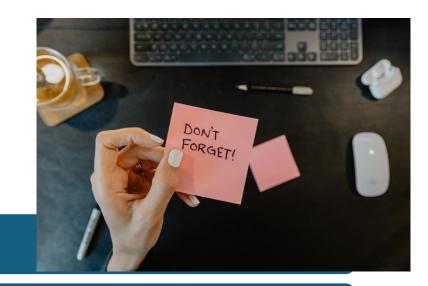
- Physical reminder
- The wedding band is emblematic/symbolic of the marriage



Physical beings

- Physical reminder
- The bread is emblematic/symbolic of His body
- The cup is emblematic/symbolic of His blood

Reminder



Reminder that we are saved by grace through faith

Restating our total dependence on what He did for us on the cross for our salvation

Symbolically associating ourselves with Him

We have already put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

An outward representation of an inward conviction

Expression of gratitude

Luke 24:28-30

- 28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.
- 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.



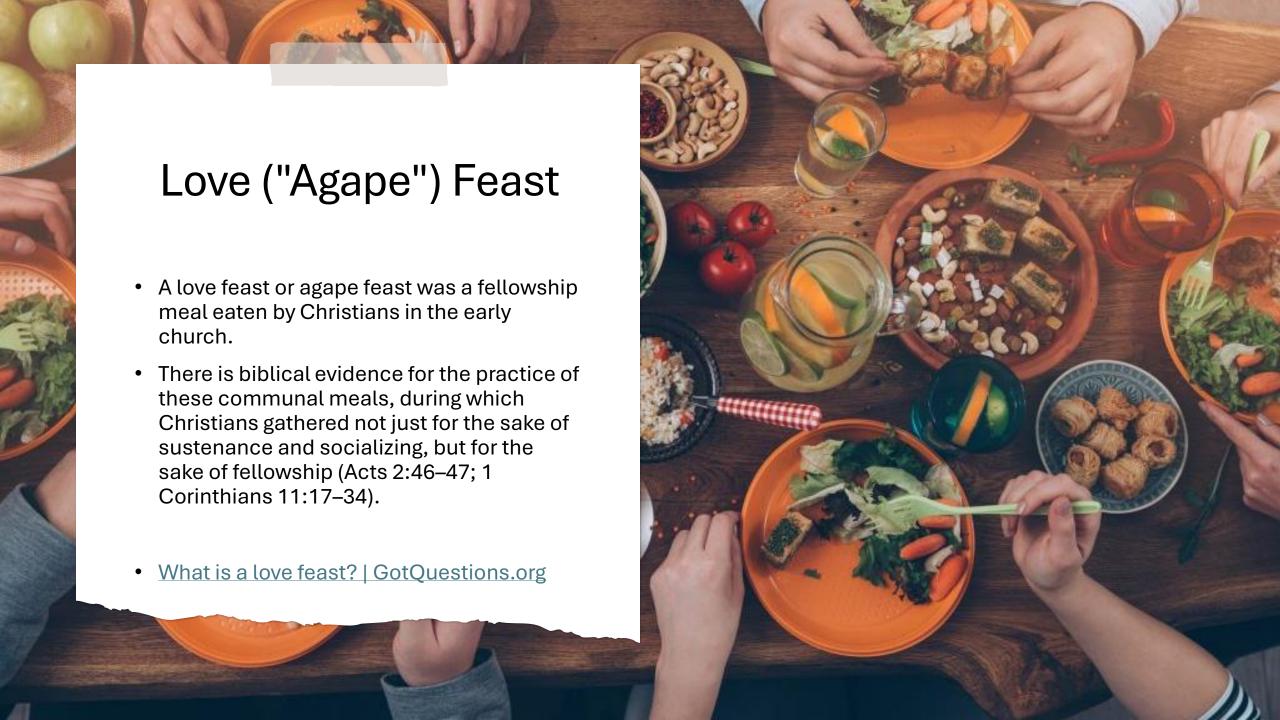
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Division in the Lord's Supper

- v. 18 divisions in the church
- Throughout 1 Corinthians, you'll see there were egos, there was party strife, there were terrible conflicts and divisions
- And what did this mean for the Lord's Supper?
- You brought your food with you from home. And when you got to that part of the service, you got your food out, and you had a full meal in commemoration of the Lord's death.



What was happening in this horribly divided church?

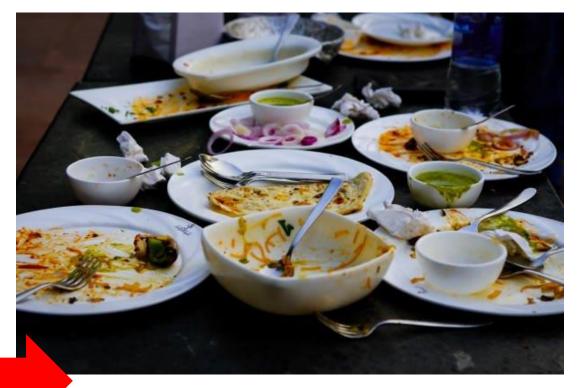




- When they came together, in v. 20, it was not the Lord's Supper they ate
- Each of them went ahead without waiting for anybody else
- One remains hungry and another gets drunk









What's going on in Corinth?

- Some of the parties were disdainful of other parties
 - When they got to the Lord's Supper, they gobbled their food down and left early
 - Some people had enough food to get drunk and other people didn't have enough left hungry

• Why?

- If you were wealthy, you brought a lot of food
- o If you were poor, you had very little
- It was a community meal that was supposed to be sharing
- These party divisions were probably also class divisions



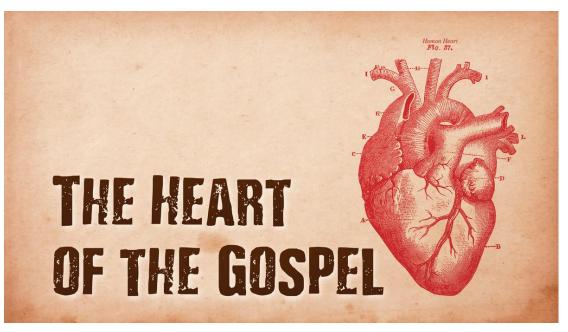
Discerning the Lord's body

- Whoever eats and drinks the cup of the Lord without recognizing the body of the Lord, eats and drinks judgment on himself/herself
- What Paul is upset about is the heart of the gospel
- We are saved by grace not works
- We are saved by what Christ has done, not by what we do
- Our performance does not matter
- Our pedigree does not matter



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- Our performance does not matter
- Our pedigree does not matter
- In Christ, there is no slave or free
- There is no Jew or Greek
- There is no male or female
- That stuff does not matter anymore



Pride – A Walking Contradiction

- What causes divisions between individuals? Pride
- What causes divisions between classes and races? Pride
- And Paul says, if you have those divisions and they even show up in the Lord's Supper, how dare you take that bread? How dare you take that cup?



Pride – A Walking Contradiction

- What causes divisions between individuals? Pride
- What causes divisions between classes and races? Pride
- And Paul says, if you have those divisions and they even show up in the Lord's Supper, how dare you take that bread? How dare you take that cup?
- You're a walking contradiction of what it's all about because what it's all about is the grace of Jesus Christ
- And the grace of Jesus Christ should take away that pride



Remembering the Lord

Galatians 3:28

• 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

















 Back in 1979, 257 people left New Zealand for a sightseeing flight to Antarctica on flight Air New Zealand Flight TE901.



- Back in 1979, 257 people left New Zealand for a sightseeing flight to Antarctica on flight Air New Zealand Flight TE901.
- Unknown to the pilots, there was a 2-degree error in the flight coordinates.
- Most people hearing that would think that's "close enough"- but that 2-degree error in fact it placed the aircraft 28 miles to the east of what was the planned route.

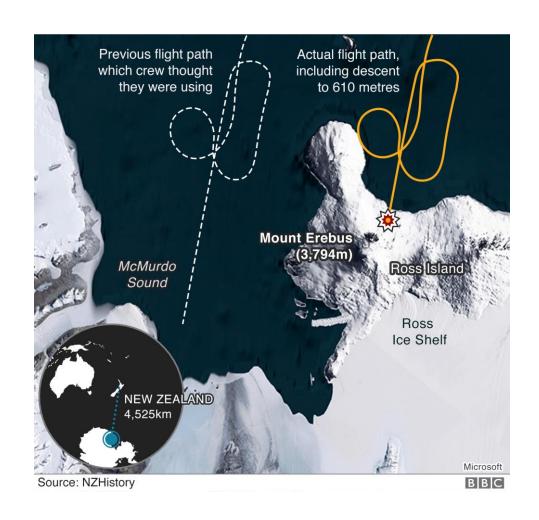


- As the pilots approached what they thought was their intended destination, to give the sightseers a better look of the beautiful landscapes they descended to a lower altitude.
- Although the pilots had years of experience, they had never made this particular flight before.
- They had no way of knowing that the incorrect coordinates had placed them directly in the path of Mount Erebus, an active volcano that rises from the frozen landscape to a height of more than 12,000 feet.

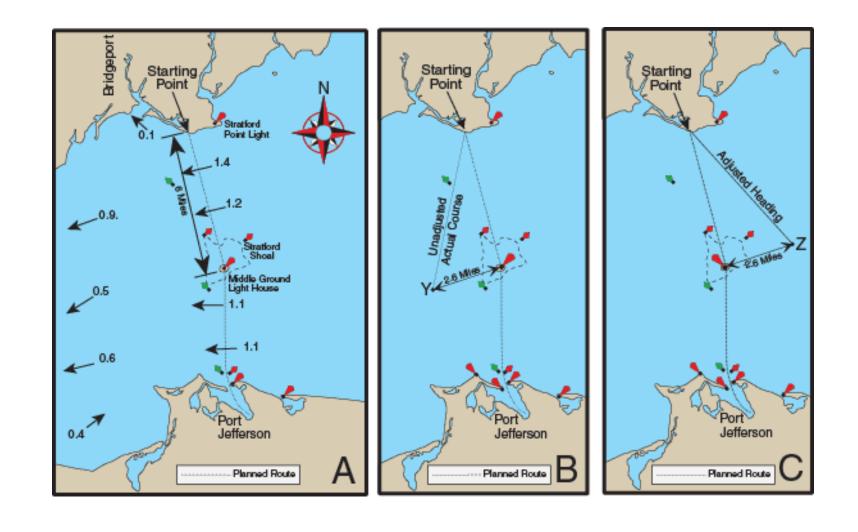


- Sadly, the plane crashed into the side of the volcano, killing everyone on board.
- It is hard to imagine how this tragedy of epic proportions was brought on by a minor error—a matter of only a few degrees.

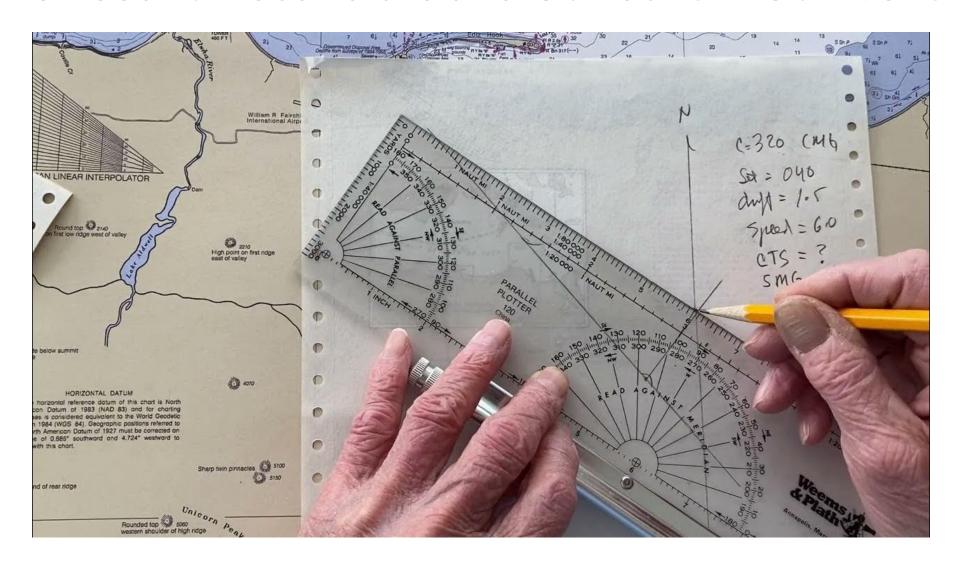
The Importance of Course Correction 28 November 1979 – Mount Erebus Disaster



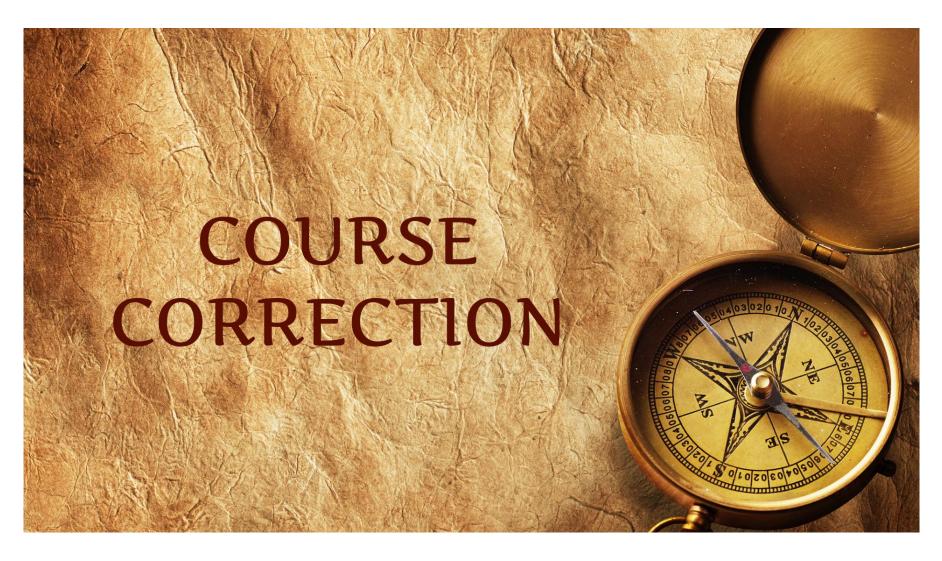
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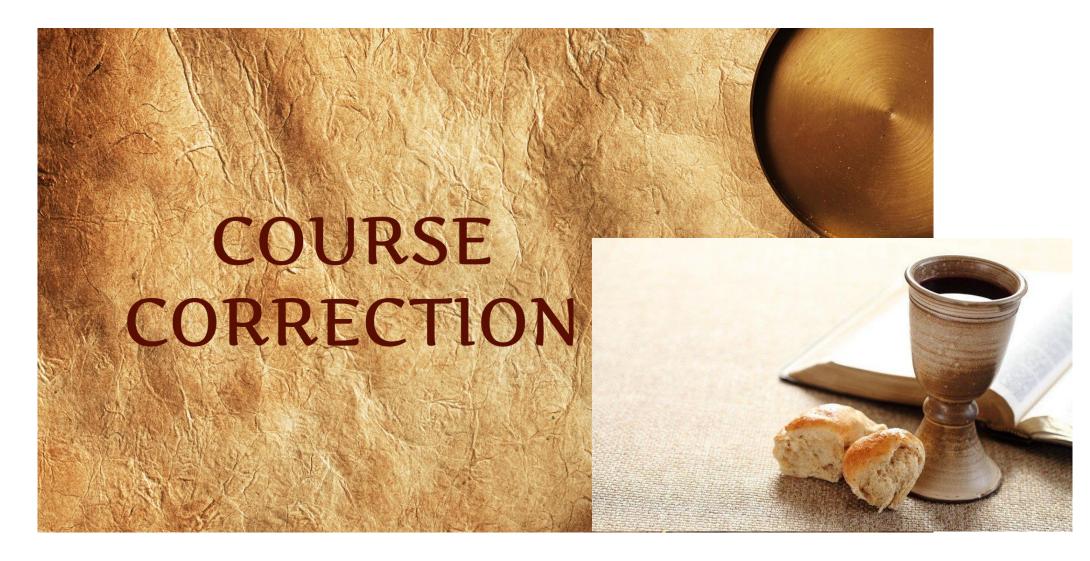
We need to Recalibrate and Correct our Course too



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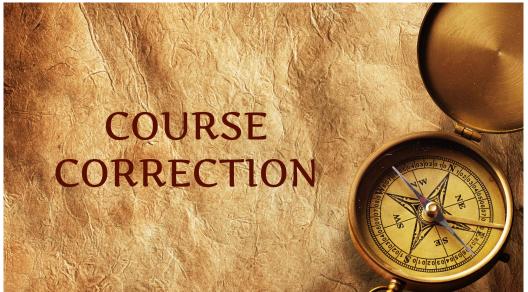
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What does it mean to examine yourself?

• 1 Cor. 11:28

• 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.



Personal selfexamination for sin



Practical Meaning

- This means grace
- This means relationships and unity if there's somebody you're not speaking to because you are mad or bitter against
- If this is true, we may believe we are sinners saved by grace, but we are not living it



Practical Meaning

- No way we can maintain a grudge and bitterness and still remember at the same time that if God was holding a grudge against us, we would be toast
- To pick up the bread and to pick up the cup and then go out and still be bitter
 - Means we are not remembering
 - You're eating judgment on yourself, Paul says



Practical Meaning

- If we have a relationship that's bad, does that mean you cannot partake of the bread and cup?
 - Repent
 - o Remember
- Make a commitment to reconcile and ask God's forgiveness and get the grace you needed to go out and do that
 - But if you say, no, I'm not prepared to do that, then don't eat it



Unworthy vs Unworthily

- 1 Cor. 11:27, 29
- 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.





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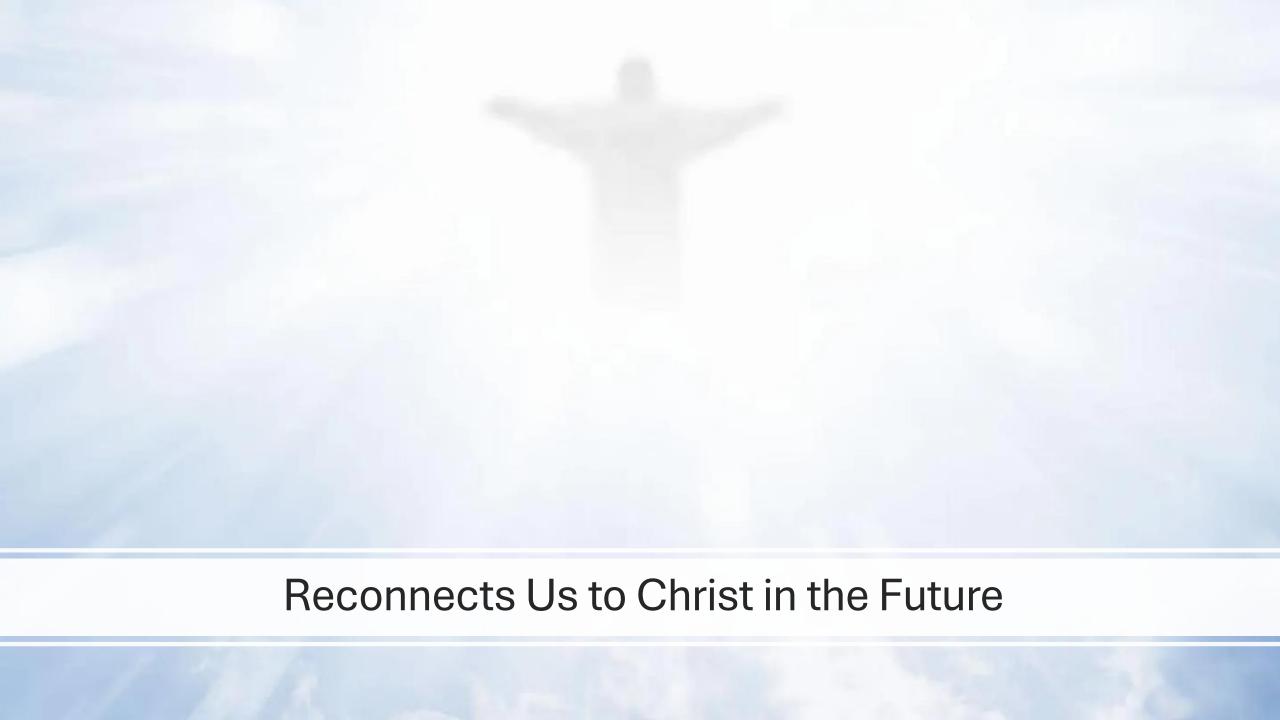
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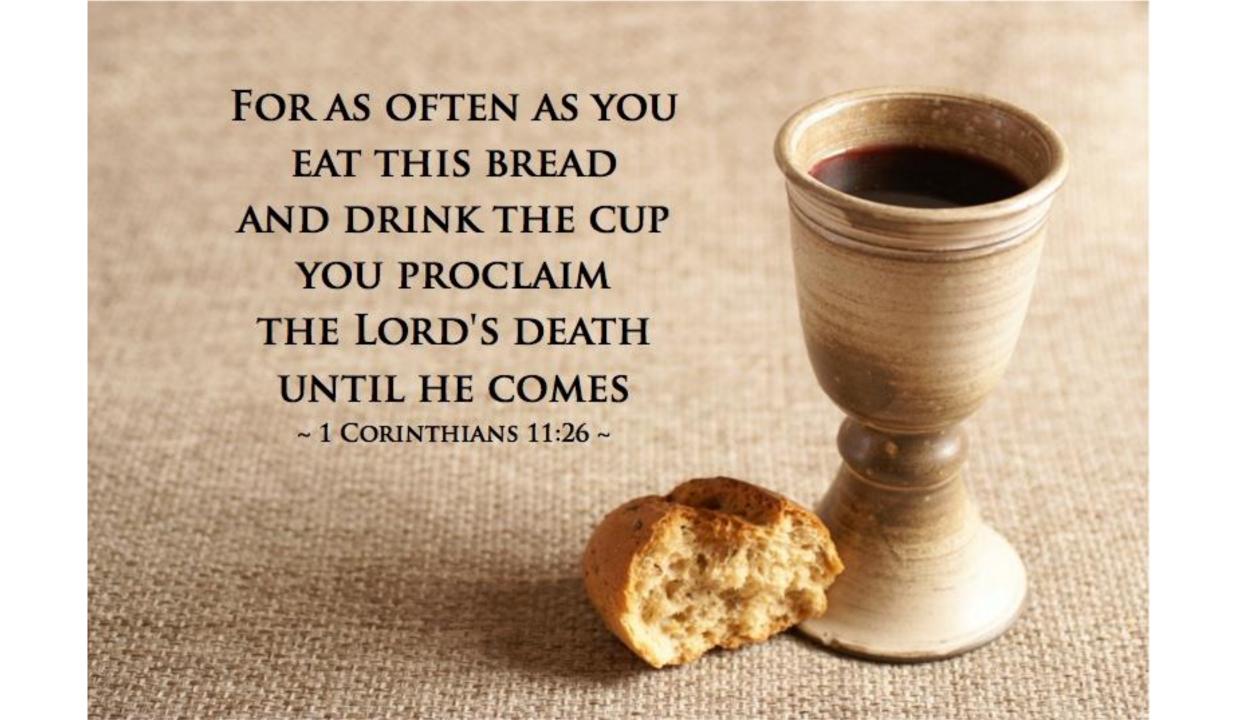


Till He comes

• 1 Cor. 11:26

• 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.





The Lord's Supper will one day give way to the Marriage Supper







The Bread of Communion

- Communion
- Common union
- Real union



Luke 22:19-20

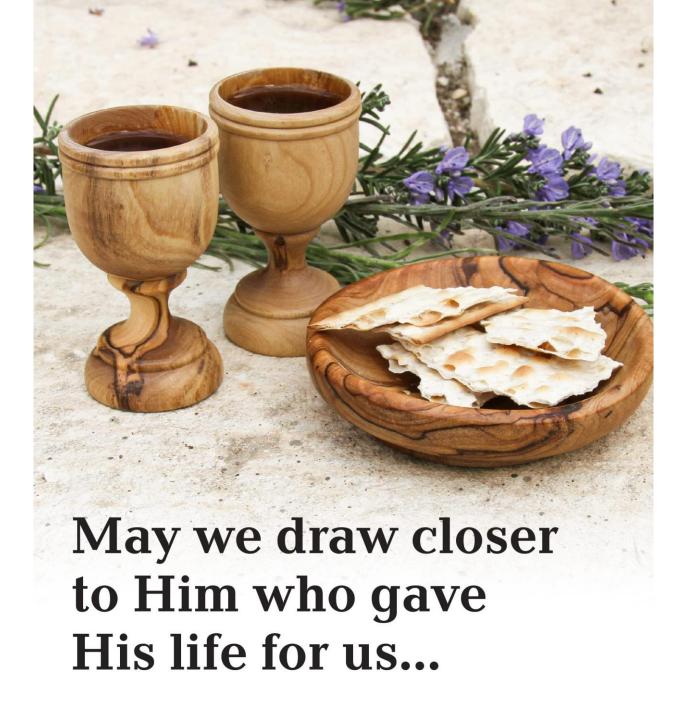
- 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.



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The Gospel and The Lord's Supper

1 Cor. 11:17-34