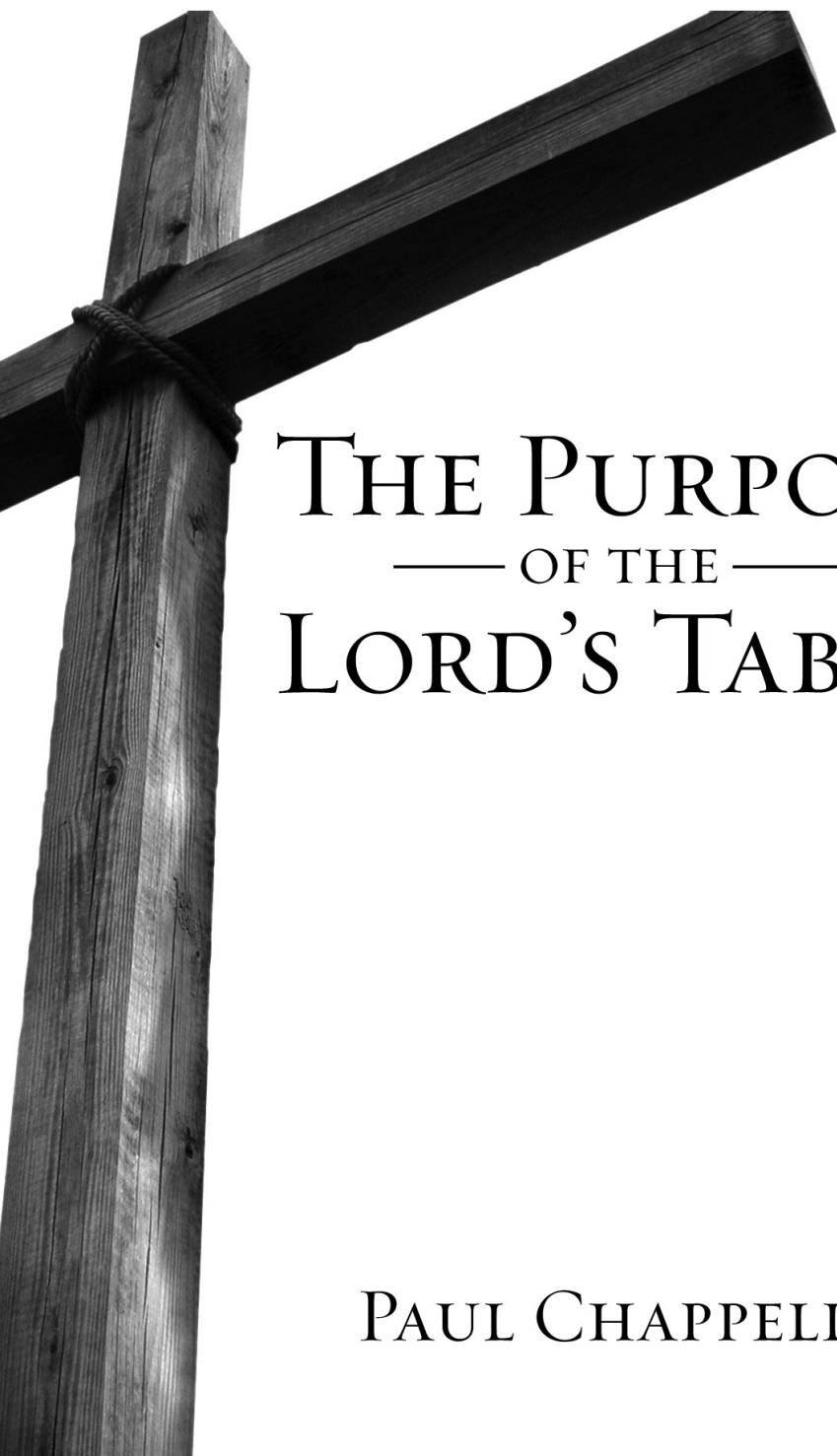


A black and white photograph of a wooden cross. The cross is made of two thick, weathered wooden beams. The vertical beam is on the left, and the horizontal beam is on top, extending towards the right. The cross is set against a dramatic, cloudy sky. The clouds are dark and heavy, with some lighter patches where the sun might be breaking through. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

THE PURPOSE
— OF THE —
LORD'S TABLE

PAUL CHAPPELL



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— OF THE —
LORD'S TABLE

PAUL CHAPPELL

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the King James Version.

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I CORINTHIANS 11:23–34

- 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:*
- 24 *And 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.*
- 25 *After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*
- 26 *For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*
- 27 *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*
- 28 *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.*
- 30 *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*
- 31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*
- 32 *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*
- 33 *Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.*
- 34 *And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.*

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Christ instituted two ordinances for His church—baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Both ordinances point to Christ and remind us of the great price He paid for our salvation.

As Bible-believing Baptists, we do not refer to these ordinances as “sacraments,” for they in no way pay for our salvation. We praise God that we are not saved by works but by grace through faith. We observe the Lord’s Supper, not hoping to receive salvation, but choosing to remember our Saviour who already purchased our salvation.

Under the teaching of the Roman Catholic church, when a priest administers the wafer and wine of communion, the recipient believes he is receiving Christ’s literal, physical body and blood. And he believes that this act is a part of his salvation. This doctrine, called *transubstantiation*, is not taught in Scripture. The Bible gives an entirely different teaching on the Lord’s Supper.

The Lord's Supper was first given by Jesus to His disciples the night He was betrayed to be crucified. Knowing that He was soon to give His life as the payment for our sins, Jesus gathered His disciples together into an upper room for the Last Supper.

This occurred at the time of the Jewish Passover, which commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. Exodus 7–12 records the plagues God released on Egypt when Pharaoh refused to allow God's people to depart. The final plague was to be the death of the firstborn. In one night, the death angel would go through Egypt and kill every firstborn. But God made provision by which the Hebrews could be spared from this plague. They were to kill a lamb and apply its blood to the doorposts of their houses. God promised, "...when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you" (Exodus 12:23). Redemption has always been paid by a blood sacrifice—not through receiving sacraments or keeping religious traditions.

When Christ instituted the Lord's Supper with His apostles on that last Passover night, He was hours away from giving His body to be broken and His blood to be shed to pay the costly price to deliver us from sin. He wanted the apostles and future church leaders to remember the sacrifice He was about to make, so He instructed them, "*this do in remembrance of me*" (Luke 22:19). Thus, the Lord's Supper, or the Lord's Table, is not a sacrament but a remembrance. The elements do not save, but they do cause us to remember.

Questions and Answers

- Q:** How often should the Lord's Table be observed?
- A:** Some pastors observe the Lord's Table only once each year because Christ instituted it on the occasion of the Passover which was observed annually. At Lancaster Baptist Church, our custom is to have the Lord's Table a few times

throughout the year. In Scripture, the emphasis of the Lord's Table is not placed on its timing, but on its reminder of Christ's sacrifice. First Corinthians 11:26 simply says, "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*" Thus, each pastor and church is free to decide under the Holy Spirit's direction how often to administer the Lord's Table.

Q: Where should the Lord's Table be observed?

A: The Greek word for *church* is *ecclesia*, meaning "called out assembly." When Christ instituted the Lord's Table, He gathered His disciples, whom He called out in Matthew 10, and instructed them, "...*this do in remembrance of me*" (Luke 22:19). In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul is addressing a local church, a called out group of Christians, as he gives instruction concerning the Lord's Table.

The institution of the Lord's Table was the early called-out assembly, and the instructions of administering the Lord's Table were given to the local body of Christ at Corinth. Thus, Scripture teaches that the Lord's Table is intended for the local church. Never in Scripture do we find the Lord's Table administered in a "universal church" or "global church" setting.

As Baptists, we don't observe the Lord's Table simply out of tradition but because of biblical instruction. Notice that as Paul instructed the church in Corinth on administering the Lord's Table, he was not sharing his own ideas; he was writing under divine inspiration.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23

*23 For I have **received of the Lord** that which also I delivered unto you...*

In 1 Corinthians 11, God gives us three purposes of the Lord's Table. In the following pages, we will examine them each individually.

TO REMEMBER THE LORD

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–25

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:

24 And 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.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Our lives are inundated with that which competes for our attention. From projects at work, to needs at home, to news reports, to hobbies and outside interests, life is constantly vying for our attention. The technology of our day adds its own set of

distractions as it blinks, beeps, and buzzes with a landslide of information and communication.

The Lord's Table is an opportunity to pull aside from every distraction and focus our attention solely on Christ and His sacrifice for us.

The Bread

The bread symbolizes Christ's body. Earlier, Jesus stated "I am the bread of life."

JOHN 6:33–35

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

As Christ shared the Last Supper with His disciples in the upper room, He was ready to give His body to be beaten and crucified, and He instituted the Lord's Table that we might remember the greatness of His loving sacrifice for us. As we take the bread, it reminds us of Christ's body, broken for us.

MATTHEW 26:26

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.

The Cross was a brutal scene. God in the flesh hung on the Cross with His body beaten by the Roman whip, nails driven through His hands and feet, and a crown of thorns implanted in His brow. His body was literally torn apart; His visage was marred beyond recognition (Isaiah 52:14), and every joint was ripped out of socket (Psalm 22:14).

The bread reminds us that Christ's body was broken *for us*. This supreme sacrifice was for *our* sins.

ISAIAH 53:4–5

4 *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

5 *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

The Cup

As the bread symbolizes Christ's body, the juice symbolizes His blood.

MATTHEW 26:27–28

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.*

The blood that gushed from Jesus' broken body was the infinite, eternal payment for our sin. Christ was conceived of the Holy Ghost (Luke 1:35) and came to earth as the Son of God—God robed in human flesh. He lived a perfectly sinless life in the flesh, and while He was tempted in all points like as we are, He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). The blood of Christ is the payment for our salvation.

We are justified by the blood.

ROMANS 5:9

9 *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

HEBREWS 9:22

22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

We are washed in the blood.**1 JOHN 1:7**

7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

As the song writer so clearly wrote,

What can wash away my sin?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
 What can make me whole again?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

—ROBERT LOWRY

We are purchased by the blood.**ACTS 20:28**

28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

The great price Christ paid for the church—His own blood—reveals the tremendous value of the local church.

We are redeemed by the blood.**COLOSSIANS 1:14**

14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

Forgiveness for sins cannot be obtained by the baptism water, church membership, or good works. Christ redeemed us through His blood alone. The juice reminds us that without the

shedding of the blood of Christ, there would be no hope, no help, no way to Heaven.

Salvation is available because Jesus gave His body to be broken and shed His blood to pay for our sins. If you have put your faith in Him, according to the Word of God, you have been declared righteous by a holy God. Salvation is not because of what we have done but because of what Christ did for us.

Don't ever become weary of meditating on Christ's sacrifice for us. We shouldn't partake of the Lord's Table grudgingly. The great and overwhelming purpose of the Lord's Table is to remember the Lord and the love He expressed for you on the Cross. Focus your attention, gratefulness, and adoration on Him.

TO REVIVE HIS CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 11:27–31

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 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.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Through the Lord's Table we remember Christ's atonement at the Cross. And when we do, we find that a fresh look at the Cross brings revival to the church. That revival comes when we

obey the Lord's command to examine ourselves before partaking of the Lord's Table.

Note

Many churches have scheduled revival meetings when extra time is set aside for services. In our church, these times have been very beneficial. But there is no need to wait for revival until the "revival services." God has designed the Lord's Table to focus our hearts on the Cross and thus bring revival. The Lord's Table should be the closest time of unity with the Lord and each other that a church experiences.

Repentance of the Heart

It has been said, "At the heart of a problem is a problem of the heart." This is why the Lord has instructed us to examine our hearts and repent of sin in our lives. The word *examine* (Greek *dokimazo*) in 1 Corinthians 11:28 means "to test, prove, or scrutinize."

Many in the Corinthian church were partaking of the Lord's Table "unworthily"—without respect. They were living in gluttony, division, lawsuits, and immorality. And in the midst of this sin, they approached the Lord's Table as if these sins (for which Christ's gave His body to be broken and His blood to be shed) were of no consequence. This demonstrated great disrespect for the body of which Christ's sacrifice had made them a part—the church Jesus loved and purchased with His own blood.

Repentance begins with identifying the things in our lives that are not genuine—motives, actions, attitudes, or thoughts. If we cannot be honest in our heart of hearts with ourselves and with the Lord, then we won't repent. How grievous that would be to the Lord!

Note

I've had a few men over the years tell me, "I know I'm not right with the Lord, so I'm not going to partake of the Lord's Table." But Christ doesn't give that as an option—He commands us to partake in remembrance of Him. He doesn't give a pass on the Lord's Table to a Christian who wants to continue in sin. Rather, one purpose of the Lord's Table is to bring Christians to a point of repentance; it is the time to deal with sin.

JAMES 4:8

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Illustration

One old farmer commented, "Many Christians spend six days a week sowing wild oats and then come to church and pray for crop failure." True repentance does not simply seek relief from the *consequences* of sin, but it turns from the *actions* of sin.

If we were to examine each other, many would happily expose the faults of their spouses or fellow church members. But notice that God commands each one to "examine himself." D.L. Moody said, "I have more trouble examining D.L. Moody than any other man I know."

Before you partake of the Lord's Table, examine your heart in light of the Cross. Be sure you are saved and that you are living a sanctified life, having repented of any known sin. Think over the past week, and back further to the last time you partook of the Lord's Table. How is your fellowship with the Lord and with other Christians? How is your growth in grace? Has some carnal habit crept back into your life? Are you at odds with a brother or sister in Christ?

God desires an *examined* heart and a *separated* heart. When we were saved, we were called as a body of believers to be separated unto Christ. Our lives are to reflect the holiness of God.

1 PETER 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

The church in Corinth was surrounded by pagan, idolatrous worship, and some of the Christians in Corinth were still involved with the idolatrous services and rituals. Paul pointed out the foolishness of living their old lifestyle most of the time and then hypocritically partaking of the Lord's Table at church.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:17–22

17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?

20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

Christians today need to learn this truth—God desires complete ownership of our lives. He has a jealousy for our complete love. We cannot give true loyalty to Christ when we are choosing to enjoy sinful pleasures at the same time. To live for the world, the flesh, and the devil throughout the week and then to partake of the Lord's Table with plans to go right back to sin on Monday is a dishonor to the Lord and His love for you. The

seriousness with which God regards the Lord's Table is seen in 1 Corinthians 11:30: "*For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*"

God has called us to be a holy people—a people whose lifestyle proclaims His greatness.

1 PETER 2:9–11

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

The world is looking for people whose lives stand out for Christ. Don't be ashamed of Him; gladly live for Him.

Notice in 1 Corinthians 11:27 that we are not to take the Lord's Supper "unworthily." It is only the blood of Christ that makes us worthy to partake of the Lord's Table. Thus, only Christians should partake.

Illustration

Sometimes it's difficult for a pastor, especially a young pastor coming into an established church, to follow God's instructions as to who should partake of the Lord's Table. The first time I administered the Lord's Table at Lancaster Baptist Church was in 1986. Before administering the Lord's Table, I explained that this ordinance was for the local body and that it was only for those who were saved and members of Lancaster Baptist Church. I requested that, while those who were not saved should feel free to watch, they would please not participate.

There were fifteen people in attendance, including Earl and Judy Farar. Earl was a serious-looking man with gray beginning to speckle his hair. Judy was a dear lady who had been praying

for her husband's salvation for many years. Being young and inexperienced, I was nervous about publicly asking those who were not saved (which would include Earl) not to partake, but I knew this was the stand that the Lord had convicted me was right.

After the service, Earl came directly to me, grabbed my arm, and said, "I need to talk to you." As I led him to my office, I was sure this was going to be a difficult conversation.

After we seated ourselves, Earl simply said, "I'm ready."

I was taken aback and hoped he didn't mean he was ready for a fight. "You are?" I questioned.

"Yes, I'm ready to be saved."

I had shared the Gospel with him several times in the past, but it was through my stand on the administration of the Lord's Table that he saw his need for salvation. I had the privilege of leading Earl to the Lord that night—Christmas Eve. God blesses His work done His way.

Revival of the Church

The repentance of individual hearts will affect the entire church body. When 1 Corinthians 11:27 notes the importance of discerning "*the Lord's body*," I believe Paul is referring to both the physical body of the Lord and the body of the church. Even as we discern and remember Christ's broken physical body, we discern and respect the local church body.

Illustration

Around the turn of the twentieth century, many Baptist churches had a "church covenant" in addition to their doctrinal statement. To join the church, a prospective member had to agree to this covenant in which they promised to pray for other members, be faithful to church, stop discord, refrain from using or selling any intoxicating beverages, and other similar things.

Churches who used a church covenant would often have a “covenant meeting” before partaking of the Lord’s Table. They would read the covenant aloud and encourage the members to search their hearts to be sure they had been faithfully upholding the scripturally-based promises they had made to the local church. In this way, the church was taking care to respect the body of Christ—the local church.

In our text, Paul gives an illustration of the importance of the church body coming in unity to partake of the Lord’s Table.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17–19

17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

When we examine our hearts by the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is free to work in the church. Specifically, proper respect to the Lord’s Table by careful examination prevents the spread of division or false doctrine.

Note

I believe Scripture indicates a selective and protective administration of the Lord’s Table. Thus, I prefer a closed Lord’s Table in which only saved, baptized members of a particular local church may partake. Consider the following reasons:

The context of 1 Corinthians 11 is a local church. Paul’s instructions concerning the Lord’s Table were written to a local church body. It is in this context that God-ordained spiritual accountability flourishes.

To promote unity in the local church. I do not believe that the privilege of partaking in the Lord’s Table belongs to

someone who is disobedient to the Lord's command of baptism or who has not committed himself as a member of a local church. Membership has both responsibilities and privileges—partaking of the Lord's Table is one of the privileges.

To preserve doctrine. By partaking of the Lord's Table, we are promoting the doctrine of the atoning work of Christ. Before someone joins our church, we hear his testimony of salvation, but we often have no idea of a visitor's salvation testimony.

To prevent a pastor from usurping pastoral authority over another man's flock. I do not want to assume authority over someone else, especially a member from another church of like faith. I believe the Lord's Table is a local church ordinance. Thus I do not serve the Lord's Table to members of another church, as I believe to do so I would be shepherding another man's flock.

For example, Lancaster Baptist Church is the home of West Coast Baptist College. In some occasions, pastors who send their students to WCBC ask the students to keep their home church membership, sometimes because they want them to reserve participation of the Lord's Table for their home church. I never want to come between a pastor and his student by usurping his authority.

To promote the authority of the local church regarding church discipline. According to Matthew 18, the local church is God's highest institution on earth in spiritual authority. Suppose someone is not in right fellowship with his church, or perhaps he has even been dismissed from his church. If he comes to Lancaster Baptist Church when we are serving the Lord's Table, I would likely have no idea of this situation. If I allowed him to partake, I would be negating the authority of the discipline administered by his local church.

First Corinthians 5 gives an illustration of church discipline in relation to the Lord's Table.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1–13

1 *It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.*

2 *And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.*

3 *For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,*

4 *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

5 *To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

6 *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?*

7 *Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*

8 *Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

9 *I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.*

11 *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

12 *For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?*

13 *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

This passage describes a sad situation in which a man in the church was living in gross immorality. Because the man was not repentant and was flaunting his sin, desiring to partake of the Lord's Table as if nothing was amiss, Paul instructed the church to let him go—to release him from the church's spiritual protection and membership.

Suppose this man had traveled to another city and attempted to partake of the Lord's Table in another church. If he was allowed, the other pastor would be unintentionally interfering with the Corinthian church's discipline.

God has given the ordinance of the Lord's Table as a sacred trust to His church. When before observing the Lord's Table we prepare and cleanse our hearts, God uses this special time to bring revival to the church.

T H R E E

TO READY FOR HIS COMING

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

26 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

Partaking of the Lord's Table focuses our attention back to the Cross, but it also points us forward to the Second Coming of Christ.

The Picture of His Coming

The first thing we see when we observe the Lord's Table is Christ's body that was broken and His blood that was shed. Next we look into our own hearts and examine ourselves, asking the Lord to reveal anything that is displeasing to Him. Then we are reminded of Christ's Second Coming in the phrase "*till he come.*" Besides

focusing our attention on Christ's death, the Lord's Table is a reminder of His return.

The Preparation For His Coming

The Lord's Table is a reminder to prepare for Christ's coming.

The first step in preparing for Christ's coming is to trust Him as your personal Saviour. Salvation is far weightier than partaking of the Lord's Table. Those who know Christ as Saviour can say with the Apostle Paul, "*...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*" (2 Timothy 1:12).

When we look back to the Cross, we are reminded of God's great love for us. The Bible teaches that God loves each of us and desires a genuine, personal relationship with us. John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

We must realize, however, that our sin separates us from God. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*" And Romans 6:23 tells us that sin has a price that must be paid: "*For the wages [payment] of sin is death....*" The *death* referred to in this verse is eternal separation from God in a place called Hell (Revelation 20:14–15).

As we've already seen, Jesus bore the penalty of our sin when He shed His blood for us on the Cross. The payment for sin is death, "*But God commendeth [proved] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). If you choose to receive Christ as your Saviour, you do not have to pay the price of death and Hell for your sin, because Jesus paid for our sins when He died on the Cross and rose again three days later!

If you have never trusted Christ, ask Him to be your Saviour, and claim His promise of eternal life. In Romans 10:13 the Bible

says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Far more important than partaking of the Lord’s Table is being saved and prepared for Christ’s return.

If you have already trusted Christ, realize that, as Christians, we prepare for Christ’s coming by living in such a way that we could always anticipate His appearance with joy.

1 JOHN 3:1–3

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

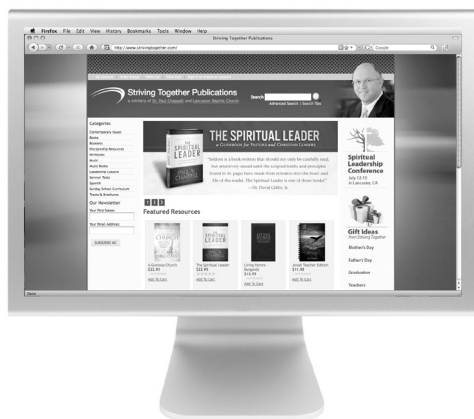
3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

If Christ should return right now, are you ready for His coming?

C O N C L U S I O N

We've looked at three purposes for the Lord's Table. Primarily, it is given to us that we might remember the Lord and His sacrifice for us. The bread symbolizes His body—broken for us, and the cup symbolizes His blood—shed for us.

The Lord's Table also causes us to examine our own hearts for anything that would grieve the Lord. If the Lord has convicted you of sin, I implore you to confess it to the Lord and seek His forgiveness. Only when we are walking in fellowship with Him will we be ready for His coming.



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