

"Memorial Day"

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the Lord's Supper as a part of our worship and how we are to observe it properly.
2. Memorial Day – The last Monday in May is set aside to remember the Men and Women who have died in military service to their country.
3. The Lord's Supper is the memorial that Christ set up for us to remember His sacrifice for us.
 - a. Matt. 26:26-29 and Luke 22:19-20
 - b. Mk. 14:22-25 "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. 23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. 25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
4. The "Lord's Supper" is taken in memory of Christ - I Cor. 11:23-26 "This do in remembrance of me"
 - a. Memory is a great factor for good or evil
 - i. "Remember Lot's wife" Luke 17:32
 - ii. Israel remembered Egypt, and wanted to return.
 - b. Some of God's memorials:
 - i. Rainbow - Gen. 9:8-17 - promise of never having another world-wide flood
 - ii. Passover - Ex. 12:14 "Memorial" = a memento
 - iii. Manna - Ex. 16:32-34

5. Great memorials of man
 - a. Egypt - The Great Pyramid - Erected by Khufu about 2500 B.C. - covered 13 acres, took 100,000 men twenty years to build. Inside was a tomb for the king and queen.
 - b. India - Taj Mahal - built by Shah Jehan for himself and his wife - made of white marble - it took 20,000 men twenty two years to build. Built 1632-1653 AD
6. Jesus built a greater memorial - the Lord's Supper.

Discussion

I. NAMES BY WHICH THE LORD'S SUPPER IS CALLED

- A. It is never called:
 1. "Eucharist"
 - a. From two Greek words - "eu" = well, good and "Charizesthai" = to show favor, thanks
 - b. It means to give thanks
 2. "Sacrament"
 - a. From a Latin word meaning oath, or solemn engagement.
 - b. Never used in NT
 3. "Mass"
 - a. Roman Catholics use this term and it means a sacrifice
 - b. It is an unbloody sacrifice
 - c. Never used in New Testament

B. It is called:

1. The "Lord's Supper" - I Cor. 11:20
2. The "Lord's Table" - I Cor. 10:21
3. The "Communion" - I Cor. 10:16 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"
4. The "breaking of bread" - Acts 2:42 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,..."

II. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

A. Jesus wanted to be remembered when he left this world.

1. He knew that his body would not be left in a tomb
2. He also knew that if he erected a great monument that...
 - a. Only a few rich people from around the world would be able to come to see it.
 - b. That the monument would eventually be torn down by enemies or fall down from decay.
 - c. People would make an idol of the monument.
3. He set up a memorial which could be seen by people in every nation, that would perpetually call to remembrance the sacrifice which He had made, and stir up in their hearts both reverence and gratitude. On the night He was betrayed He took some bread and fruit of the vine and made them into a memorial.

B. **Bread** - Matt. 26:26 Mark 14:22 Luke 22:19 I Cor. 11:23

1. In the Passover observance unleavened bread was used - Exodus 12:15
2. Jesus used this bread in instituting the Lord's Supper
3. We should use unleavened bread today in the Lord's Supper
4. The Bread represents the body of Christ - Mt. 26:26 - "Take this and eat it; it is my body" - the Jews understood this as a figure of speech.
 - a. We often show a picture of a loved one and say: "this is my wife" or "This is my son." Or "my grandchild"
 - b. The bread is a representative of the body of Christ - It is a memorial
5. This bread represents Jesus, the Bread of Life.

C. **Cup or Fruit of the Vine** - Mt. 26:27, 29

1. The cup refers to the contents and not the container - I Cor. 11:26 Mt. 26:27
2. The "cup" represents the blood of Christ - Mt. 26:27-28 "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant."
3. "But there is so little of it - just a swallow."
 - a. That's all right, there is always enough to go around, for everyone. Every Christian has his needs supplied.
 - b. So it is with the blood of Christ. His blood was shed at Calvary, not for his sins, but for ours. His blood was enough for every person who would come to Him.

D. It is not as some religions teach when they say the bread becomes the literal body of Jesus and the fruit of the vine becomes the literal blood Christ. This is the doctrine called "Transubstantiation".

- E. Some might say: "It's just a little cracker and a little drink of grape juice." But it means more to the Christian...

III. THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. It is a Commemoration

1. It is observed in memory of Christ - Luke 22:19
2. It is a constant reminder of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

B. It is Communion

1. With God and Christ

- a. I Cor. 10:16 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"
- b. McCord's - "The consecrated cup, for which we give thanks, is it not a sharing of Christ's blood? The bread which we break, is it not a sharing of Christ's body?"
- c. Mt. 26:26-29

2. Communion = participation or sharing - identifies one with Jesus.

3. With one another - I Cor. 10:17 - it shows we are united with one another in one body.

C. It is a Proclamation

1. Proclaim our faith in the death, burial and resurrection
2. Proclaim our faith in redemption which is in Christ
3. Proclaim our faith in His second coming.

D. It is a Dedication

1. The Lord's Supper represents the blood-ratified covenant between Christ and Christians - Heb. 8:6-8,12 I Cor. 11:25
2. We eat the Lord's Supper with a consciousness of our promised dedication to Christ.

E. It is an Anticipation

1. It is given to Christians "till He comes".
 - a. I Cor. 11:26 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."
 - b. McCords - "Whenever you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death, until he comes."
2. The Lord's Supper spans the gulf between the first and second coming.

IV. PROPER WAY TO OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. Possible to observe in the wrong manner

1. We could come together to observe the Lord's Supper and our meeting "not for the better, but for the worse." I Cor. 11:17
2. It is possible to eat bread and drink the fruit of the vine and not observe the Lord's Supper.
 - a. The Lord's Table is in his Kingdom - Luke 22:29,30 A man outside the kingdom may eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine in all sincerity, but is not in actual communion with the Lord.
 - b. A Christian may actually eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine, yet do it in such an unworthy manner as to not be observing the Lord's Supper at all.
 - c. There is more to the Lord's Supper than just eating the bread and drinking the fruit of the vine.
3. Failure to take the Lord's Supper in the proper way will bring about sickness
 - a. I Cor. 11:30 "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."
 - b. This is spiritual sickness

B. The proper way is to observe in a "worthy manner" I Cor. 11:27

1. The word "unworthily" is not an adjective describing the person eating the Lord's Supper.
2. But it is an adverb describing the manner of partaking.
3. Instead of thinking about whether or not he is worthy to eat the Lord's Supper, he rather should be thinking about Christ, His death, and His second coming.

4. The proper manner will include "self examination" I Cor. 11:28 - ask yourselves these questions:
 - a. Am I Sincere? or am I laughing, talking, thinking about something else.
 - b. Do I have the right attitude of Heart? Mt. 5:21-24
 - c. Did I come to keep the memory of Christ? I Cor.11:24,25
 5. The Worthy manner will also include "discerning the Lord's Body"
 - a. I Cor. 11:29 BBE "being conscious that it is the Lord's body."
 - b. Do I have a proper regard and appreciation of the Lord's sacrifice.
 6. This proper observance will insure good spiritual health - I Cor. 11:30
- C. It is observed on the first day of the week
1. Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,."
 2. Jesus arose on the first day of the week. Mark 16:9
 3. The church was established on the day of Pentecost which is the 1st day of the week. Acts 2:1, 41, 47
 4. The contribution is to be taken on the 1st day of the week.
 - a. 1 Cor. 16:2 "Upon the first day of the week."
 - b. NIV, RSV, NASV all have "On the first day of every week"
 5. Many churches take the Lord's Supper 1 time a year, others 2 times a year. Some do it monthly.
 6. The Bible teaches that it is to be done weekly.

V. REVIEW OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. It is a memorial observed in memory of Jesus
- B. It consists of unleavened bread and the Fruit of the Vine.
- C. We eat the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week - Acts 20:7
- D. We do this in the right manner or attitude.
- E. We partake of the Lord's Supper every week. - I have taken the Lord's Supper 2,623 times since I was baptized on Jan. 12, 1958.

CONCLUSION

1. The Lord's Supper is important part of our worship.
2. It's simplicity and beauty make it a fitting memorial.
3. "In this supper we see pictured the sinfulness of man, the grace of God, the love of Jesus, a perfect sacrifice for sin, the covenant of grace, his glorious promise to come.
4. The Lord's Supper continues to live on and is observed every first day of the week throughout the world.