

THE LORD'S SUPPER
(As it relates to our covenant with God)

S. Reading (**Exodus 24:1 – 3**)

9-6-2020

Intro.

- A. It is imperative that we periodically evaluate why we do what we do religiously.
- B. Restoring N.T. Christianity includes, but involves much more than simply the right external patterns.
- C. In this lesson our focus will be on the relationship between our covenant with God (to be His people) and our observance of the Lord's Supper.

I. GOD HAS ALWAYS MADE COVENANTS.

- A. Covenant defined:
 - 1. Hebrew term literally means to “cut a covenant.”
 - a. Heb. “berith”(Gen.15:18) seems to come from the idea of eating.
- B. For example Abraham (**Genesis 15**)
 - 1. “How can I be sure?” (vs. 7 – 8)
 - 2. God commands sacrifices be offered (vs. 9 – 11).
 - 3. God demonstrated His faithfulness to keep the covenant (vs. 17 – 18).
- C. For example Jacob (**Genesis 31:54**) Laban and Jacob
 - 1. Illustration of ancient custom of offering a sacrifice and eating a meal to seal an agreement.
- D. Covenant at Sinai (**Exodus 19 and 24**)
 - 1. (**Exodus 19:5-8**) God offers a covenant to Israel and they accept.
 - 2. (**Exodus 24:1-3**) Read
 - 3. Covenant written and sacrifices offered (**24:4-5**).
 - 4. The **blood of the covenant** (**Exodus 24: 6 – 8**).
 - 5. (**Exodus 24:9-11**) Covenant with God sealed by eating and drinking.

II. THE LORD'S SUPPER (A spiritual acceptance, reminder and commitment to keep our covenant with God.)

- A. “Blood of the covenant” (Exodus 24:8).
 - 1. (**Matthew 26:28**) Obviously a symbol of what the literal blood of Jesus would dedicate – His covenant to all men.
 - 2. Personal acceptance of the covenant would be demonstrated by “eating with [Christ] in [His] Father's kingdom.” (**Matthew 26:29**)
 - 3. Eating the Lord's Supper each week indicates the affirmation of our covenant with God.
- B. All Old Testament sacrifices are combined in Christ.
 - 1. By Christ's sacrifice we can be:
 - 2. Remembering Christ and His Supper reminds us that “He” is our “peace offering.”

III. IMPLICATIONS REGARDING OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPER

A. God's covenants have always included "terms of acceptance" (Acts 2:38, 41)

B. **(1 Cor. 10:16-17, 20 – 22)**

1. The Lord's Supper is a spiritual sharing with Him in remembering the purpose of His body and blood (Titus 2:11 – 14).
2. When we participate in the Lord's Supper we are reminded that the real body and blood of Jesus inaugurated this new covenant.

3. Also, **we can't affirm or be committed to two opposing covenants at once (vs. 20 – 21).**

C. **(1 Corinthians 11:26 – 29) Read**

1. (vs. 26) We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes, not only by eating the bread and drinking the cup.
 - a. We are not just remembering Christ's death and resurrection, but are proclaiming our allegiance to Him as our KING.
 - b. We are, by our eating, indicating our anticipation of His return.
2. (vs. 27) participating in an "unworthy manner"
 - a. Irreverence, lack of respect and thoughtfulness are certainly examples of eating in an "unworthy manner."
 - b. But so is blatant disregard, during the week, for the covenant made between us and God by means of the blood of Christ (Hebrews 10:26 – 29).
 - c. Indeed such a one shall be **"guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."**
3. (vs. 28) "prove (examine) ourselves"
 - a. Show us what the worthy (manner) is.
 1. Not sinless (Luke 17:10; Matt. 5:23 – 24; Eph. 4:1)
 - b. Have we kept our agreement with God? Are we holy, forgiven and pure?
 - c. When we fail we should seek God's forgiveness upon our repentance and reaffirm our commitment to the Lord as we participate in communion with Him.
4. (vs. 29) "eats and drinks judgment to himself"
 - a. Caused by a lack of focus on the relationship of the bread and fruit of the vine to the body and blood of Christ.
 - b. But also by failing to remember that Jesus body and blood were sacrificed for my sins.
 - c. Now I can be reconciled to God (**Isa. 53:4-6, 10 – 12**)

Conclusion:

A. Have you accepted God's covenant?

1. Terms of acceptance are simple (Romans 6:4 – 6)
2. All the benefits are 'in Christ' (Ephesians 1:3)

B. Have you been appropriately remembering Christ and your commitment to serve Him?