

What Does the Bible Teach About Jesus and the Passover?

Mark 14:12-26

Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ

Jesus Christ, Our Passover

- What would you eat as your last meal if you knew you were to die tomorrow?
- The last supper Jesus ate, as recorded in scripture, was the Passover.
- For Christians, it may have been the most important meal ever eaten in the history of humankind
- The meal Jesus ate on the eve of His death was designed by God to exalt His Son.
- It is a meal that proclaims the Gospel of the grace of God and the resurrection to a home in heaven.
- It is a meal that exemplifies new spiritual covenant between God and penitent sinners.

Jesus Christ, Our Passover

- 1Cor. 5:7-8 - “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. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Jesus Christ, Our Passover

- 1Peter 1:18-20 - “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”

Jesus Christ, Our Passover

- Preparations for the Supper
- Problem at the Supper
- Portrait in the Supper

Preparations For The Supper

- Mark 14:12-16 - “Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, ‘Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?’ 13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. 14 Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, “The Teacher says, Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?” 15 Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.’ 16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover.”

The Purpose For The Preparations

- The Passover was the main feast of the Jewish religious year held on the 14th day of the 1st month of the Jewish calendar (Ex. 12:6); roughly corresponds with April in the modern calendar.
- Also called “The Feast of Unleavened Bread,” because no yeast was to be used or kept in the house during the period of the feast.

The Purpose For The Preparations

- Ex 12:1-11
- Every family in Israel was to take the following steps:
 - They were to choose a lamb, which was to be killed on the evening of the Passover - Ex. 12:3-6
 - They were to take the blood of the lamb and put some on door posts of their homes - Ex. 12:7
 - They were to roast the lamb over a fire and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread - Ex. 12:8
 - They were to eat this meal dressed for a journey, with their shoes on, walking sticks in hand, and to eat it in as though in a hurry - Ex. 12:11

The Pattern Of The Meal

- They drank a cup of red wine mixed with water - Luke 22:17
- There was a ceremonial washing of hands which symbolized the need for spiritual and moral cleansing.
- They ate bitter herbs which symbolized their bondage in Egypt.
- They drank a second cup of wine, at which time the head of the house explained the meaning of Passover.
- They sang the first two Hallel Psalms - Psalms 113-114

The Pattern Of The Meal

- The lamb was brought to the table, and the head of the household distributed it with the unleavened bread. The unleavened bread symbolized haste. There was no time to allow the dough to rise before the journey would begin.
- They drank a third cup of wine, and then concluded the meal by singing the rest of the Hallel Psalms - Psalms 115-118
- Orthodox Jews still observe the Passover the same way it has been observed for thousands of years. Sadly, most have lost or do not discern its meaning.

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- The feast involved a lamb (Ex. 12:3-8). The family was to choose “a lamb,” afterward called “your lamb,” making the meal personal.
- They were to select the lamb on the tenth (Ex. 12:3), and were keep the lamb until the fourteenth (Ex. 12:6).
- An attachment would develop between the family and the lamb. This was intentional; God wanted them to see the high cost of sin, and He wanted them to know that salvation is an intensely personal business.

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- The lamb was to be without blemish (Ex. 12:5), a picture of perfection and purity.
 - 1Peter 2:22 - “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth.”
 - 2Cor. 5:21 - “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- The lamb was to be slain and its blood applied to the door posts of the house (Ex. 12:7, 22-23). The family was to gather inside the house and eat the meal. When the angel passed through the land to kill the first born, those in homes with blood on the doors would be safe.
- Another parallel to Jesus Christ; the only shelter anyone will have in the Judgment from the wrath of God against sin is the blood of Christ.

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- Rev. 1:5 - “Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”
- Rom. 5:9 - “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- The lamb was to be roasted in fire (Ex. 12:8), a picture of judgment.
- Jesus was judged in our place.
 - Gal. 3:13 - “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.”
 - 1Peter 3:18 - “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- The lamb had to be eaten - Ex. 12:8
- Jesus death on the cross is meaningless to us until we believe, obey, and partake of Him.
 - Mark 14:22-24 - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.’”

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- John 6:48-51 - “I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 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.”

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

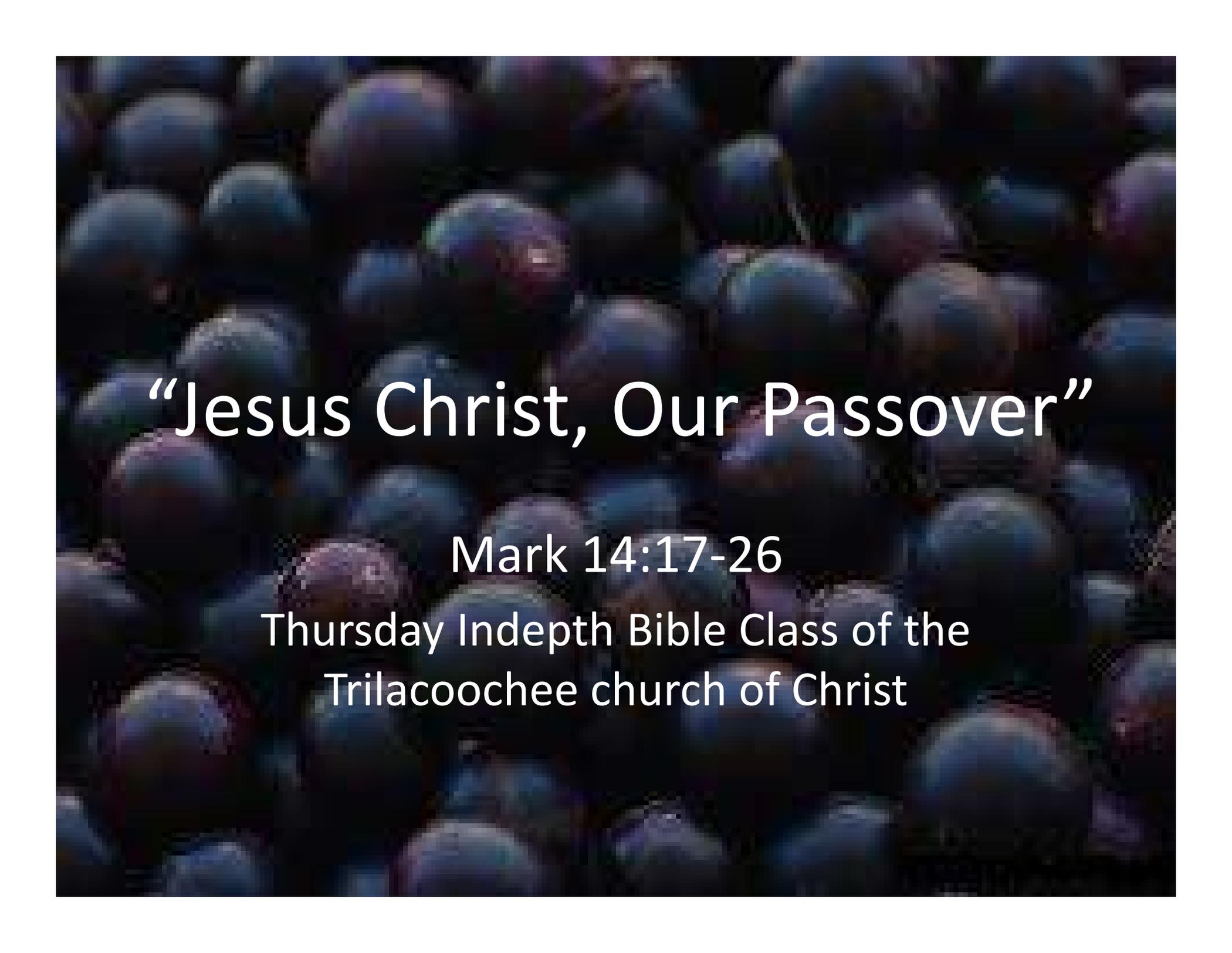
- Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, sanctifies and purifies us.
 - Heb. 10:10-18
- His blood saves us from sin, wrath, and death.

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- Heb. 9:22-24 - “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. 23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

The Personal Nature Of The Passover

- 1John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
- Eph. 2:13 - “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”



“Jesus Christ, Our Passover”

Mark 14:17-26

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Problem At The Passover

- Mark 14:17-21
- John 13:3-17
- Mark 1:7 - “And he preached, saying, ‘There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.’”

Problem At The Passover

- The Announcement about betrayal
 - Mark 14:18 - “Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.’”
- Their Astonishment
 - Mark 14:19 - “They began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, ‘Is it I? And another said, Is it I?’”
 - Matt. 26:25 - “Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, ‘Rabbi, is it I?’ He said to him, ‘You have said it.’”

Problem At The Passover

- The Appeal

- Mark 14:20-21 - “He answered and said to them, ‘It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. 21 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.’”

Problem At The Passover

- John 13:21-27 - “When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.’ 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. 23 Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. 25 Then, leaning back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ 26 Jesus answered, ‘It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.’ And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’”

Problem At The Passover

- John 13:27-30 - “Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’ 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, ‘Buy those things we need for the feast, or that he should give something to the poor.’ 30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.”

Problem At The Passover

- One will either confess Jesus willingly in life,
 - Phil. 2:10-11 - “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- Or he will confess Jesus in terror in Judgment, but too late.
 - Rom. 14:10-11 - “...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.’”

Portrait In The Passover

- Mark 14:22-26 - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’ 26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Portrait In The Passover

- Eph. 2:4-7 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Portrait In The Passover

- The Example

- Mark 14:22-24 - “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.’”

Portrait In The Passover

- Ezekiel's haircut - Ez. 5:1-3
- Jeremiah's neck yoke - Jer. 27:1-7
- Abijah's shredded clothes - 1Kings 11:29-33

Portrait In The Passover

- The bitter herbs reminded them of bondage as slaves in Egypt.
- The wine represented God's fellowship with the believer in the midst of trial.
- Stewed fruits, the color and consistency of clay, reminded them of the bricks they had been forced to make.
- Unleavened bread represented separation from evil and haste.
- The roasted lamb represented purity and redemption.

Portrait In The Passover

- The unleavened bread Exemplifies His body.
 - Mark 14:22
- Jesus gave new meaning to the bread by making Himself the bread that God sent from heaven.
 - John 6:33-35 - ““For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ 34 Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ 35 And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

Portrait In The Passover

- Luke 22:19 - “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.’”
- 1Cor. 11:23-24 - “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.’”

Portrait In The Passover

- Many rejected the symbolism and died lost.
 - John 6:66 - “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”

Portrait In The Passover

- The fruit of the vine Epitomizes His blood.
 - Mark 14:23-24
- Jesus gave new meaning to the cup. It would become the symbol of the new covenant validated by the blood of the sacrifice, His own blood. It is the reminder that He took our place and carried our punishment.

Portrait In The Passover

- Isa. 53:4-6, 10 - “Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him
stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He
was wounded for our transgressions, He was
bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for
our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we
are healed. 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...
10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has
put Him to grief. When You make His soul an
offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall
prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD
shall prosper in His hand.”

Portrait In The Passover

- Rom. 4:25 - “Who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”
- Rom. 5:8 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- 1Cor. 15:3 - “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”
- 2Cor. 5:21 - “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Portrait In The Passover

- Eph. 5:2 - “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”
- 1Peter 3:18 - “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”
- Rom. 3:25-26 - “Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Portrait In The Passover

- The Expectation
 - Mark 14:25
- That Passover marked the beginning of the testimony of the death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and the eventual return of Jesus Christ.
 - 1Cor. 11:26 - “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”
 - Heb. 12:2 - “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Portrait In The Passover

- Rev. 19:11-16 - “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Portrait In The Passover

- His Exodus
 - Mark 14:26
- Even though He knew exactly what was ahead of Him, He went anyway