

LOOKS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INTRODUCTION

- I. Each Sunday, the Lord's people observe what is called "The Lord's Supper, in memory of the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.
 - A. It is referred to in the New Testament as "The Lord's Supper", "The Communion", or "The Breaking of bread," and is a special meal in common with the Lord. 1 Cor. 10:16
 - B. It is called the "Lord's Supper" because it was instituted by the Lord, it is about Christ, and is a supper that is contrasted with a common meal. 1 Cor. 20-25 (Discuss fully)
 1. The word "supper" is from the Greek word *deipnon*, which simply means "the chief meal."
 2. It is found 14 times in the New Testament, and refers to any special feast or meal whether it be a birthday meal, or a feast of any kind.
 - a. In our day and society, it used to refer to an evening meal or primary meal of the day.
 - b. The Lord's Supper is observed **every Sunday**, whether observed in morning or evening, and NOT just on special occasions, as is observed in most denominations on special occasions.
- II. Our lesson today is entitled, "LOOKS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER."

DISCUSSION

I. The 1st look of the Lord's Supper is the BACKWARD LOOK.

- A. We look BACK to the Garden of Gethsemane and Calvary when Jesus suffered and died for the benefit of mankind, as we observe the Supper.
 1. His body was offered and nailed to the cross. Matt. 26:26; John 19:31-37; 1 Cor. 11:24
 2. Jesus shed His blood in his death as the price for salvation. Matt. 26:28; John 19:34-37
- B. Also, we look BACK to the time WE were baptized into Christ's death to be united with Him **in His death.**

II. The 2nd look of the Lord's Supper is the UPWARD LOOK.

- A. We take this look as we look UP to the Father in thanksgiving for His giving Jesus for us.
 1. Jesus set the example of the upward look as HE gave thanks for the bread and fruit of the vine, that He was going to use in the representative elements of His body and blood. Luke 22:17-20 (Discuss)
 2. In our giving of thanks, we specifically give thanks FOR these elements.
- B. Then, in our meditation as we observe the Lord's Supper, we look upward to the body and blood that Jesus possessed while on earth, that was sacrificed for us.

III. The 3rd look of the Lord's Supper is the INWARD LOOK.

- A. In order to properly look UPWARD, we need to look INWARD, as we meditate on the death of Jesus.
- B. We do so by thinking about Jesus in the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood.
 1. We can do this AS we partake of the emblems.
 - a. As we eat the bread, we think about His crucified body hanging on the cross.
 - b. As we drink the cup, we think about the blood of Jesus dripping from His body.
 2. Failure to do so will weaken us spiritually and cause us to eventually die spiritually. 1 Cor. 11:28-30

IV. The 4th look of the Lord's Supper is the OUTWARD LOOK.

- A. The OUTWARD look is the impression we make on those OUT in the world who observe our weekly communion and it's message to them that Christ's and His sacrifice are being remembered.
 - 1. The KJV says we "shew" the Lord's death till He comes.
 - 2. The ASV and NJKV say we "proclaim" His death, the word we use for "preaching."
 - 3. Each week we have THIS special sermon to proclaim or preach.
- B. Most ALL denominations have something similar to our communion which they observe only on special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, or at weddings or funerals.

V. Finally, the 5th look of the Lord's Supper is the FORWARD LOOK.

- A. In the first place, we look FORWARD to each Lord's day so we can honor Christ, obey God, and present a sermon to the world.
- B. In the second place, we look forward TO HIS COMING. 1 Cor. 11:26
 - 1. At His coming, the world will come to an end.
 - 2. At His coming, there will be the resurrection of ALL the dead. John 5;28-29
 - 3. At His coming, we will ascend into the air to meet the Lord.
 - 4. At His coming, we will enter into eternal life following the judgment.
 - 5. At His coming, we will have observed our **LAST** communion service, for they are only to be observed "till he come", according to 1 Cor.11:26.

CONCLUSION

- I. Are you looking **backward, upward, inward, outward** and **forward** AS YOU OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?
- II. If you are not Christian, you cannot experience the joy of remembering the death of Jesus in this special way.
 - A. Even as a believer, and you neglect the Lord's Supper, you are missing something special and wonderful.
 - B. You begin the Christian when you confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God, repent of your sins, and are buried with Christ in baptism and are raised to walk in newness of life.

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