

# The Importance of the Lord's Supper

By Eddie Cooper

What do you think about when partaking of the Lord's Supper? What are we to remember? Is it right for us to do it in the right way? These are questions that should be asked.

When I was young and it came time in worship to participate in the Lord's Supper, we had a member who would very vividly and accurately bring our minds back to Calvary. It actually brought tears to his eyes as he recalled through what the Lord went.


The reason for this article is to take notice of Scriptures that men read during the Lord's Supper but fail to observe. Here is one reference in full.

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, 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." In the same manner, He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant of my blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

Notice several things of importance.

1. When Jesus had given **thanks**, He broke the bread (11:23-24).
2. In the same manner, He also took the cup (fruit of the vine) (Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:25).
3. In verse 26, we are told that when we eat the bread and drink the cup that we proclaim the Lord's **death** until He comes.
4. We are to partake in a worthy manner (11:27).
5. It is a period of examination (11:28).
6. We are to discern the Lord's body (11:29).

In my travels, I've noticed that during the Lord's Supper, those offering comments sometimes mention that we also remember the Lord's burial and resurrection. I have not found a Scripture that teaches us to observe or remember the resurrection of Jesus during the Lord's Supper. From what we read, we are to remember His **death**, not His burial and resurrection. Men who are leading us in this observance need to make sure that they actually give **thanks** for the bread and the cup when they pray for them. Men often remind us in prayer to observe it in a **worthy manner**, which is good, but forget to give thanks. It might even be the case that men will spend more time talking about the **day of observance** than the giving of thanks or about the sacrifice of Jesus.

Maybe we have failed to do as the Scriptures teach sometimes because we have taken for granted what the Lord has commanded us to do. Just give it some thought. 

[**Editor's Note:** The Lord's Supper must never be treated lightly or amount to merely a check off box. It's not something that we simply do, but the Lord's Supper deserves one's heartfelt participation. We must do it right (outward activity) for the right reasons (inward conviction). Prayers during communion (1 Corinthians 10:16) are not occasions to comment on the weather (how beautiful and sunshiny the day may be), anyone's health, the state of the nation and politics, the sermon or even to quote Scripture to God! The Lord's Supper has a clearly stated purpose that every Christian needs to embrace fully. It is a solemn event, comparable to a funeral, where we mourn the death of God's Son in our place and give thanks that through His death we were forgiven of our sins. ~ Louis Rushmore, Editor]

## **Misnomers About the Lord's Supper**

**[By Louis Rushmore](#)**

Dear Bro. Rushmore, I have a question concerning the Lord's supper. There is a congregation that passes the collection plate in about the middle of the worship hour, after this the Lord's supper is passed. After the preaching and singing and the giving of announcements, just before dismissal prayer the brother making announcements asks if anyone needs

to take communion (those arriving late) usually there is always someone who does. There is no request if they would like to give of their means. I believe when you pass the communion a second time to the late-comers it does not give them an incentive to get to worship on time (these are always the same people). Also, I am under the impression that when we do not do the five items of worship, we have not worshiped in spirit and in truth. Please help me to understand this better. Thank You in advance. A.R.

Generally, Bible students freely admit that there are **five acts of worship** that comprise the Lord's Day assembly: the Lord's Supper and preaching (Acts 20:7), singing and prayer (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 12:15), and the contribution (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). It is true that Acts 20:7 appears to place a special emphasis on the Lord's Supper, yet the religious instruction (preaching) on the same occasion is not diminished to "take it or leave it" status. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." In fact, the verse and passage in which it appears imply a protracted amount of time allotted to preaching. In addition, there is no biblical reason to suppose that the other three acts of worship deserve less Christian interest than preaching. Doubtless, the Catholic Mass, where an emphasis on a corrupted form of communion exists, amounts to some extra-biblical baggage that has found its way into denominational churches **and** sometimes into the churches of Christ.

The "Truth" part of worshipping God in "spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24) leads faithful Christians to assemble each Lord's Day (Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 1:10) to worship God in his own appointed way. The "whole church" is supposed to "come together" for worship (1 Corinthians 14:23), that is, at the same time in the same place. No part of worshipping God in his own appointed way dare be reduced to "take it or leave it" status. However, an undue emphasis on the Lord's Supper often leads to a de-emphasis of the other four acts of worship. This is manifested in a number of ways: (1) Members leaving worship after communion, (2) Taking communion **only** to members who are homebound or hospitalized, or (3) Offering communion **only** to latecomers to worship. (Some elderly, homebound members, though, may request communion be brought to

them, and as a matter for their conscience sake it should be taken to them-  
-along with prayer, etc. as much as possible.)

The Lord's Supper is not some magical abracadabra by which anyone's Christian membership is validated until next time. Christianity is heart and soul religion that becomes the convert's whole way of life (Matthew 22:37; 1 John 1:7). Intentionally slipping in for the Lord's Supper or slipping out of worship after the Lord's Supper is hardly indicative of true conversion, and brethren who pose as enablers for this type of conduct are doing no one any eternal favors.