

360 DEGREE VISION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17, 11:23-32

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

July 31, 2016

Introduction

I remember as a small child my mother and I were walking to the store. We came to a crosswalk and I proceeded to cross the street. My mother grabbed me and said, "Bobby, you need to look both ways, even when the light is green." I just thought that since the light was green, I had the right of way to cross the street.

Later, when I began to learn to drive, my mother constantly was harping in my ear, "Keep your eyes on the road ahead, glance behind you in the rear view mirror, peek to the right and look to the left in the side mirrors. Trouble is coming at you in all these directions" she would say. I will be honest, I had no idea how to accomplish looking everywhere at all times. When I joined the Coast Guard, they had a term for this. They called it having your head on a swivel. That made perfect sense to me.

Even today, I can still hear her voice at times: "Look ahead, behind, right and left." I still have that pattern of 360-degree vision when I drive today.

Spread before us today is what we refer to as the Lord's Supper. I believe that our scripture references this morning are proclaiming to each of us to have a 360-degree vision of the Lord's Supper by looking in four directions as we prepare to partake the Lord's Supper.

Looking Back

1 Corinthians 11:24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The first direction we must view is the view to the cross on which Jesus was slain. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ today, then you understand that Jesus, the Son of God was sent to this earth to appease the wrath of God against all sinners. Jesus freely gave himself to this task. He allowed himself to be captured, tortured, judged in error and finally put to death in the most excruciating way, hanging on a cross.

This is the vision that we must all see and hold in anticipation of partaking in the Lord's Supper. Look back to the cross and see the blood stained wood of the cross. Do not envision Jesus hanging on the cross. Just look at the result of the crucifixion.

Looking Within

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

All worship should be filtered through a self-examination. We are to be holy before the Lord as we worship, pray and sing. As we enter this building, each of us should examine ourself. When we examine ourselves, the Holy Spirit will illuminate those areas or sins in our lives that need to be attended to. We certainly do not need to wait until the "invitation" time in order to confess our sins before our God and Savior.

Looking Around

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The Lord's Supper is one of the Church's ordinances (commands). For the New Testament body of believers, the Lord's Supper was a vital part of worship. They celebrated the Lord's Supper as they gathered together on the first day of the week (Sunday). There is no recorded instance of the Lord's Supper taking place except in the presence of others. In this passage, not the condition:

1 Corinthians 11:18 - *...when you come together as a church*

1 Corinthian 11:20 - *...When you come together*

1 Corinthians 11:33 - *...when you come together to eat*

Linda and I do not practice the Lord's Supper in our home. We participate in this Feast within the confines of the body of believers gathered on the Lord's Day.

Looking Ahead

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Lord's Supper gives us a glimpse of the future of the Church. Jesus said he would not drink the fruit of the vine again until he came in the fullness of the kingdom (Matthew 26:29; Luke 22:18; Mark 14:25). Whenever we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are reminded of Jesus' promise to His disciples. Paul wrote that "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death *until he comes*" (1 Corinthians 11:26). The Lord's Supper helps us look ahead.

Conclusion

As we approach the Lord's Supper, we should review the symbolism of this meal: it shows the death of Christ (I Corinthians 11:26); it pictures the believer's spiritual participation with Him (John 6:53-56); and it prompts us to careful self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28).

The question arises, "Who can participate in the Lord's Supper?"