

October 12th & 13th, 2024

The Blessing of The Lord's Supper

The Sacrament

- “Ritual actions undertaken by the Christian Church that are understood as visible signs of invisible divine grace.” (The Lexham Bible Dictionary)
- “The visible form of invisible grace” (Augustine, “On the Catechism of the Uninstructed,” 26.50)
- “Different Christian churches and traditions vary in their understanding of how the visible sign relates to the divine grace. There are two general understandings:
 1. The sign bestows or contains the grace.
 2. The sign depicts, represents, or symbolizes the grace.”ⁱ

❖ According to the New Covenant, Christians celebrate two sacraments:

1. Baptism.

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

2. Communion.

Matthew 26:26-29 “Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.’”

📖 Mark 14:22-25

Luke 22:19-20 “And He took the bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.’”

↳ Christ made a New Covenant with humanity and instituted the Lord's Supper to celebrate this covenant. We do this to remember Christ, the New Covenant, and His return. He will not do it again until the kingdom of God is established.

The Commandment

❖ The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated by believers and followers of Jesus when we are together.

📖 1 Corinthians 11:17-23

- Every follower of Christ is commanded to partake of the bread and the cup in remembrance and proclamation of Jesus.

↳ *1 Corinthians 11:26 “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”*

↳ *Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

- Communion is commanded for believers of Jesus Christ.

↳ *Acts 20:7 “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”*

The Celebration

❖ Through the Lord's Supper, we reflect, remember, and celebrate the work of Jesus on our behalf through His death.

- ◆ Communion is an act of remembrance for the believer to focus on the work of Jesus that provided atonement, redemption, forgiveness, and acceptance before the throne of God.

Romans 3:23-26 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 “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, 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.’ 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.’”

✦ *Isaiah 53:4-6 “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. 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.”*

✦ *Hebrews 9:11-12 “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”*

The Devotion

❖ As we approach the table for the Lord's Supper, we grow in our understanding of the work of Christ in us, develop reverence for Christ, and identify ourselves with the body of Christ.

📖 1 Corinthians 11:17-25

- ◆ Communion requires an attitude of...
 - ✦ unity in the congregation.
 - ✦ love toward one another.
 - ✦ order.
 - ✦ thankfulness.
- ◆ How do we take communion with an attitude of devotion?
 - Understand the meaning of partaking in Communion.
 - Grow in faith in the significance of Christ's work on the cross.
 - Rest in the fulfillment of completeness in Christ.

The Grace

❖ God uses the sacraments not only for us to testify what we believe, but to connect us with the grace that is provided in Christ's work of redemption.

- ◆ When we partake in communion, we participate in the blessing of His accomplishment for us on the cross.

✦ *1 Corinthians 10:16-18 “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? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?”*

The Seriousness

❖ The seriousness of the Lord's Supper requires us to examine ourselves as we do it.

- ◆ We examine our hearts to discern our faith in the sufficiency of Christ's provision for our redemption.

1 Corinthians 11:27-31 “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. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.”

Endnotes:

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ⁱ Schlesinger, E. R. (2016). [Sacraments](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.