

Today, the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

The meaning of the Lord's Supper is complex, rich, & full.

➤ There are several things symbolized and affirmed in the L. S..

▷ 1st, look @ 3 things that are symbolized.

➤ 1st, Jesus' death.

➤ 2nd, our participation in the benefits of Jesus' death.

➤ & 3rd, the unity of believers.

▷ Then look @ 4 things that are affirmed.

➤ 1st, Jesus affirms his love for us.

➤ 2nd, Jesus affirms that all the blessings of salvation are reserved for us.

➤ 3rd, we affirm our faith in Jesus.

➤ & 4th, affirms 2nd coming of Jesus.

➤ Not in depth.

3 things that are symbolized. 1/8

1st, Jesus' death.

➤ When we participate in the Lord's supper, we symbolize the death of Jesus because our actions give a picture of his death for us.

▷ The bread.

▷ The cup.

➤ This is why participating in the Lord's Supper is also a kind of proclamation.

▷ 1 Cor. 11:26a, For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death.

▷ The word "proclaim" occurs many times in the NT to describe the ministry of the church to the unbelieving world.

➤ It is the announcement to those outside the church that Jesus is the only way of salvation.

➤ As Peter said, referring to Jesus, (CSB) There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.

➤ When the world sees the church eating and drinking in order to remember the significance of Christ's body and blood, the word of the gospel is made visible.

→ It's a word picture.

▷ The expression "the Lord's death," represents the whole of Jesus' saving ministry on behalf of the church. I.e., his life, death, resurrection, & ascension.

2nd, our Participation in the Benefits of Christ's Death symbolized. 2/8

➤ Jesus told the disciples to take the bread and eat; and said, "this is my body."

▷ Afterwards, he took the cup and 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."

➤ As we reach out & take the bread and then the cup for ourselves, each one of us is by that action proclaiming, "I am taking the benefits of Christ's death to myself."

➤ When we do this, we give a symbol of the fact that we participate in or share in the benefits earned for us by the death of Jesus.

➤ In Eph. 1:3, Paul summarizes what those benefits are.

▷ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

▷ Expands through vs 14.

▷ Consider what Paul tells us.

➤ God the Father decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus.

➤ He purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. God has showered his kindness on us.

➤ We have obtained an inheritance.

➤ When we believed in Christ, God identified us as his own by giving us the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. 3/8

›And the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.

›Again, as we reach out & take the & then the cup, we symbolize that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms through Christ.

And 3rd, the unity of believers is symbolized in the L. S.

›When Christians participate in the Lord's Supper together they also give a clear sign of their unity with one another.

▷In fact, in 1 Cor. 10:17 (NIV) Paul says, *Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.*

▷In his discussion on unity & diversity in the body of Christ, Paul writes this in 1 Cor. 12:12-13 (NLT).

›The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

›Eph. 4:3 (NIV), *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

▷God the Holy Spirit has joined believers together to form one unit, the one church.

▷When we are saved, he does not divide us into individual separate entities, each doing our own thing.

›We are all different parts of one unit, one whole.

›He has united us into 1 new class of humanity, church, the 1 body of Christ. 4/8

▷Peace is the bond/fastener that helps preserve and protect the church's unity.

‣So, being at peace with one another will help us to continually make every effort to preserve and protect the unity we have from the Holy Spirit.

▷And peace must be worked out in practical ways.

‣E.g., to be humble, self-controlled, slow to become angry, and tolerant in our relationships with our fellow believers.

‣The unity of believers is symbolized in the L. S.

4 Things that are affirmed by the L. S.

1st, Jesus' love for each believer individually is affirmed.

‣The fact that each believer is able to participate in the Lord's Supper.

‣Indeed, that Jesus invites each one of us is a vivid reminder and visual reassurance that Jesus loves each one of us individually & personally.

‣When we come to partake of the L. S., we thereby find reassurance again & again of Jesus' personal love for each one of us.

‣And his love for each of us will last forever.

▷Ps. 136, his steadfast love endures forever.

▷I have loved you with an everlasting love.

‣Jesus' love for each believer individually is affirmed. 5/8

2nd, That all the blessings of salvation are reserved for us is affirmed.

➤ Jesus invites all believers to his table.

➤ When we come at his invitation to the Lord's Supper, the fact that he has invited us into his presence assures us that he has abundant blessings for us.

➤ In this Supper, we are actually eating and drinking at a foretaste of the great banquet table of the King.

▷ We come to Jesus' table as a member of his eternal family.

▷ When the Lord welcomes us to his table, he assures us that he will welcome us to all the other blessings of earth and heaven as well

▷ And he will especially welcome us to the great marriage supper of the Lamb, at which a place has been reserved for each of us believers.

➤ Rev. 19:6-9, Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

➤ That all the blessings of salvation are reserved for us is affirmed.

3rd, our faith in Jesus is affirmed.

➤ As each one of us take the bread and cup for ourselves, by our actions each of us is proclaiming the following. 6/8

▷ "I need you and trust you, Lord Jesus, to forgive my sins and give life and health to my soul, for only by your broken body and shed blood can I be saved."

➤ In fact, as we partake in the breaking of the bread when we eat it & the pouring out of the cup when we drink from it, we proclaim again and again the following.

▷ Our sins were part of the cause of Jesus' suffering and death.

▷ In this way sorrow, joy, thanksgiving, and deep love for Jesus are richly intermingled in the beauty of the Lord's Supper.

➤ And through Jesus, we have forgiveness of those sins.

▷ My sin —oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't!

➤ My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

➤ As we've already noted, in Eph. 1 Paul says that we have the forgiveness of sins.

▷ The term forgiveness means to release or to cancel.

➤ It thus denotes a permanent release from the punishment for sins, which have been paid for by Christ's sacrifice. God no longer holds the sins against us.

➤ Paul also points this out in [Rom. 8:1](#).

▷ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

➤ The point Paul is making here ~ is that ~ condemnation is, ~ in every sense, out of the question ~ for those who truly belong ~ to Christ Jesus. 7/8

➤ What Paul says about our forgiveness ~ is beautifully illustrated in Ps. 103:12 (NIV).

▷ As far as the east is from the west, ~ So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

And finally, Jesus' 2nd coming is affirmed.

➤ 1 Cor. 11:26, For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

➤ Jn. 14:1-3 (NIV), Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

➤ Acts 1:7-8, He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 8/8