

INTRODUCTION.

LAST MONTH ON C. S., ~~ STEVE WANTED US TO BE REMINDED ~ OF WHAT HAPPENED when Jesus died on Calvary.

▶▶ So he asked us to join him ~ in revisiting the old story of the cross.

▷▷ And I think we could summarize by saying ~ Steve reviewed the basics of the message of the cross.

▶▶ Today being C. S., ~ I would like us to build on the theme of reviewing basics.

▶▶ Specifically, ~ I would like us ~ to reexamine the basics ~ of the Lord's supper, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ as Paul lays them out ~ in ~ 1 Cor. 11:17-31. ⇔⇔ Sept. '15.

▶▶ My precise purpose for this ~ is twofold.

▷▷ 1st, ~ to refresh ~ our understanding ~ of the Lord's Supper

▷▷ And 2nd, ~ to refresh ~ our understanding ~ of how to approach & partake of ~ the L.S.

IN VERSES 17-22, ~ Paul expresses his displeasure with the Corinthian church ~ in the way ~ they were conducting the Lord's Supper. ⇔⇔ 17-22

▶▶ Paul does not commend them in their observance of the Lord's Supper.

▶▶ Because ~ observance was ~ chaotic, ~ improper, ~ & ~ did more harm than good. ¶¶ 1/8

▶▶ We learn from this ~ that the Lord's Supper ~ should be observed ~ 77

▷▷ decently ~ in order ~ and ~ in a way ~ that is beneficial to all believers.

▶▶ Paul points this out ~ in his discussion of orderly worship ~ a few chapters later.

▷▷ 1 Cor. 14:26 (NIV), ⇔⇔ What then shall we say, ~ brothers and sisters? ~ When you come together, ~ each of you has ~ a hymn, ~ or ~ a word of instruction, ~ a revelation, ~ a tongue or an interpretation. ~ Everything ~ must be done so that ~ the church may be built up.

↪↪ IOW, ~ When believers come together ~ it should be for the benefit ~ of other believers.

→→ Our gatherings ~ should do more good ~ than harm.

↪↪ So when we observe . . . it should be in a way ~ that is beneficial for others.

▷▷ 1 Cor. 14:33a, ~ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

↪↪ God does not want us to be ~ in disorder ~ but in harmony and peace.

↪↪ He wants everything to be done ~ peacefully and in order.

↪↪ And that includes ~ observance of the Lord's Supper.

▷▷ 1 Cor. 14:40, ~ But all things should be done decently and in order.

↪↪ The Lord wants everything done in a proper and orderly way, ~

→→ And we do that here 11 2/8

NOW LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO VERSES 23-26

▶▶ Six ~ brief observations ~ from these 4 verses.

▶▶ 1st, ~ notice ~ that Jesus ~ instituted the ordinance ~ of the Lord's Supper.

▷▷ Not a church committee.

▷▷ This shows some of the importance ~ of celebrating it.

▶▶ 2nd observation.

▷▷ Notice ~ twice ~ Jesus says, ~ "Do this in remembrance of me."

▷▷ This is a command.

↪↪ This is not something optional for believers.

▶▶ 3rd observation, ~ there is no set schedule ~ for celebrating it.

▷▷ Jesus says, ~ "as often as you drink it."

▷▷ And Paul says "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup."

▷▷ There apparently ~ is no prescribed schedule ~ for the observance of the Lord's Supper.

↪↪ It's left up to individual churches ~ as to how often ~ to partake. 📖 3/8

▷▷Christian liberty.

↳↳Even though Paul was talking about days, ~ the principle ~ behind [Rom. 14:5](#) ~ applies here.

→→One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

▶▶Now let's note the 4th observation from [verses 23-26](#).

▷▷In repeating "Do this in remembrance of me," ~ observe ~ that Jesus ~ 77

↳↳is putting an emphasis ~ on remembering what He has done for us.

→→Cross/bore sins.

↳↳[Is. 53:4-6](#)

▷▷And let's think about this.

↳↳The Lord's Supper ~ is a constant reminder of at least ~ two things.

↳↳1st, ~ it's a constant reminder ~ that ~ we could not ~ and did not ~ save ourselves.

→→Every time we partake of the Lord's Supper it should prompt us to recall Paul's words in [Eph.](#)

→→For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 11 4/8

↪↪ And 2nd, ~ the Lord's Supper ~ is a constant reminder ~ that our salvation ~ was costly.

→→ 1 Pet. 1:18-19 (NIV), ~~ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

▷▷ Remembering what Jesus did for us, ~ 77

↪↪ plus ~ the constant reminder ~ that we did not redeem ourselves ~ 77

→→ and ~ that our salvation was extremely costly to Jesus ~ 77

↪↪ should produce within us ~ extreme gratitude ~ for what Jesus has done for us.

▶▶ The 5th observation.

▷▷ Notice that every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper ~ the gospel is preached.

▷▷ Verse 26 ~ we "proclaim the Lord's death."

▷▷ A visible, ~ wordless sermon ~ that proclaims ~ the message of the Cross.

▶▶ Now for a moment, ~ let's note ~ the 6th and last observation ~ from verses 23-26.

▷▷ In verse 26, ~ we observe that, ~ in addition to focusing on the past and what Jesus has done,

↪↪ Paul wants us to focus ~ on the promise ~ that Jesus ~ is returning. 77 5/8

NOW LET'S BRIEFLY FOCUS ON VERSES 27-31

▶▶ Overall, ~ these verses show us ~ that we are ~ to approach and partake of the Lord's Supper ~ ¶¶

▷▷ reverently, ~ with ~ pure hearts, ~ and ~ with the utmost respect for the Lord.

▶▶ In [verse 27 \(NIV\)](#), ~ Paul says, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

▷▷ Participating "[in an unworthy manner](#)" entails, ~ I would strongly suggest, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ coming to the communion table in an ~ ¶¶

→→ irreverent, ~ ungrateful, ~ and sinful way ~ and therefore ~ sinning even more.

▶▶ And observe in [verse 28a](#) ~ that Paul calls upon us ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to examine ourselves ~ before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

▷▷ 1st, ~ we are to make sure ~ we are approaching the Lord's Supper ~ in a respectful and grateful way.

▷▷ And 2nd, ~ we are to make sure ~ we are not harboring any sin ~ in our heart.

▷▷ After our self-examination, ~ Paul says in [verse 28b](#), ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ¶¶ 6/8

▷▷ The word "so" ~ implies and emphasizes ~ that we are to examine ourselves first ~ 77

↳↳ and only then ~ eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

↳↳ Which means ~ if we don't examine ourselves first, ~ we are partaking of the Lord's table ~ unworthily.

▶▶ Notice in [verses 29-30](#) the severe discipline ~ God brought upon the believers ~ 77

▷▷ who were partaking of the Lord's Supper ~ in an ~ irreverent, ~ ungrateful, ~ and sinful way.

▷▷ 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.

▷▷ Shows us 2 things. ~ I'll just give them to you and then you can think about them.

↳↳ 1st, ~ there are consequences for partaking in a disrespectful, ~ thankless, ~ and sinful manner.

→→ God will discipline us.

↳↳ And 2nd, ~ God's severe discipline of the church in Corinth ~ shows us ~ 77

→→ that God takes ~ how we approach ~ and treat partaking of ~ the Lord's Supper very, ~ very ~ seriously.

▶▶ Finally, ~ note what Paul says in [verse 31 \(NIV\)](#).

▷▷ But if we were more discerning ~ with regard to ourselves, ~ we would not ~ come under such judgment. 77 7/8

▷▷Point Paul's making is this.

↳↳If we examine ourselves in advance ~ to make sure ~ 77

→→we will be partaking of the Lord's Supper ~ in a worthy manner, ~ we will avoid God's discipline.

CONCLUSION.

IN CLOSING, ~ I'LL JUST BRIEFLY SHARE ~ TWO GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ~ 77

▶▶about the Lord's Supper for you to ponder.

▷▷1st, ~ the bread and juice ~ do not become ~ the actual body and blood of Jesus.

↳↳They are ~ symbolic.

→→They ~ picture ~ the reality ~ of what Jesus has done for us.

▷▷2nd, ~ the Lord's Supper ~ is for ~ believers.

↳↳It is for those ~ who have confessed with their mouth ~ that Jesus is Lord ~ 77

→→and believe in their heart ~ that God raised him from the dead.

↳↳If that defines you, ~ you are welcome to participate ~ in the Lord's Supper. 8/8