

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Harvest Missionary Baptist Church Sunday AM, February 26, 2006

□ **I CORINTHIANS 11:17-34 A LESSON ON THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- ◆ Message will answer many of your questions regarding The Lord's Supper
 - Who can partake?
 - Open, Close, Closed → *Define*
 - Saved participating → Faithful vs Unfaithful (*Worthy*)
 - Elements of the Supper
 - Bread & Cup → Type of Bread & What about wine vs grape juice
 - Or does it matter → Pizza & Coke?
 - Even frequency of taking the Lord's Supper is addressed here
 - How often should a church take the Lord's Supper
 - You don't need Greek to answer these questions → Just look @ context
- ◆ Notice the focus in this passage is "Coming Together as the Lord's Church"
- ◆ **Vs 17** In giving these instructions, I praise you not
 - You "come together" not for better but for worse
 - "You" here is the church @ Corinth
 - "Come together" is the service when they take Lord's Supper
- ◆ **Vs 18-20** The problem of division in the church
 - This is the first thing mentioned in this lesson on Lord's Supper
 - Church division is a frequent problem addressed by Scripture
 - **I Corinthians 12:12 & 20-26** Many members → One body
 - No division in the body
 - Factions (earlier problem addressed) causes divisions → God uses them
 - It tests the leadership → Showing whom God approves
 - (Hint: The ones who exercise discernment & discipline)
 - The ones who only take God's side
 - Being divided, you can't take the Lord's Supper
 - "Therefore" leads us to this conclusion
 - The "you" here is the church
 - Lord's Supper is a supper for the Lord's local churches
 - Not a supper for all saved
 - Otherwise they could take it divided
 - **1st Question Answered** → Closed – Local Church only
- ◆ **Vs 21-22** Basic problem is selfishness & lack of concern for each other
 - Own supper, hungry, drunk
 - Sure it wrong to turn Lord's Supper into a banquet
 - But emphasis is on selfishness
 - Despising church
 - No respect for assembly → "Coming together"
 - Shame those who have nothing
 - Again, absorbed by self (hunger & drunkenness) at expense of others
- ◆ **Vs 23-25** The Lord's instructions to Paul, passed onto Corinthians
 - Lord's Supper just before Jesus' betrayal → W/Passover elements

- Unleavened bread → Denoting our sinless Savior
 - Giving thanks → God's faithfulness to us in Christ
 - Broken to signify His passion (suffering) in the flesh for us
 - "Do this in remembrance of Me"
- The cup → Denoting blood of Christ that was sacrificed for us
 - Fermented wine is most likely element @ Passover
 - Giving thanks → God's love to us in Christ
 - "Do this in remembrance of Me"
- **2nd Question Answered** → It does matter – Unleavened Bread & Wine
 - It is not what we want, it is to remember Jesus' death
 - These elements best represent Jesus' body & blood
- ◆ **Vs 26** A Feast of Remembrance
 - In this ordinance – We proclaim Jesus' death
 - We do this by partaking
 - You can't do this without eating bread & drinking cup
 - We do this until Jesus comes back
 - **3rd Question Answered** → How often? – As often as we can
 - I.E., Do it for the right reason & with right attitude
 - First church (@ beginning) may have done this everyday
- ◆ **Vs 27-32** The self-examination
 - Taking L.S. in unworthy manner → Guilty of body & blood of Jesus
 - KJV – Unworthily → Adverb, indicating how you eat & drink
 - Not evaluation of your worthiness
 - (Like Pharisee & tax collector – Luke 18:13)
 - This would change focus from Jesus to us
 - Self evaluation of ability to remember Jesus' death (discern Vs 29)
 - No one can make that evaluation but you
 - **4th Question Answered** → Not a test of faithful vs unfaithful members
 - Such a test would divide the church & disqualify everyone
 - Deal with this issue with church discipline
- ◆ **Vs 33-34** Again the focus is "Coming Together as the Lord's Church"
 - As a church, to remember Jesus' suffering & death for us

LET US OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER