

(1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

INTRODUCTION

- Paul was correcting the practice of the Lord's Supper in the Corinthian Church
- He pointed out unacceptable behavior and conduct that was taking place (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)
 - There was division and strife (V. 18)
 - Lack of respect for the table of the Lord and for each other (V. 20-22)
 - A spirit of pride and boastfulness
 - There was display of greed and drunkenness (V. 21-22)
- The purpose and the meaning of the Lord's Supper is found in Isaiah 53.
 - There is a three-fold blessing when we celebrate the Lord's Supper

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

HE BORE OR TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED OUR SORROW (v.4)

- Note that this is written in the past tense. He has done it already (has borne, carried, stricken, smitten, afflicted, was wounded, bruised)
- The results which we can experience today - "we are healed" (present tense)
 - "Infirmities" - anything that afflicts us
 - "Sorrows" - anything that causes us to lose our joy.
 - "chastised" - punished
- Infirmities and sorrows can destroy us e.g.
 - Guilt of unforgiven sins
 - Bitterness is a root
 - Resentment because of jealousy, hatred and pride
- There is blessing of forgiveness and deliverance at the Lord's Table.

HE WAS WOUNDED (or pierced) FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS (lawlessness & rebellion) AND BRUISED (or crushed) FOR OUR INIQUITIES (unrighteousness, wickedness or wrong) (v. 5)

- Rebellion and unrighteousness is sin
 - It brings death – spiritual death and then eternal death
 - Sin is cruel, merciless and destructive.
 - The wounds and bruises brought death to Jesus – the wounds, bruises and the chastisement that reconciled us to God.

There is reconciliation. - blessings of peace with God at the Lord' Table

BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED (v.5)

- 39 stripes were placed upon His back.
 - Medical science says there are 39 major diseases and sicknesses from which streams other illnesses
 - 39 stripes was the maximum the Roman law allowed for one to receive – anymore would kill him
 - There is the blessing of healing for every kind of sickness and disease in the world.
- Jesus died on the basis that He gave up His life – nothing could kill Him

(John 10:15)

As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep

(John 15:13)

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- Illustration:
 - Israel and the celebration of the Passover

(Exodus 12:7-11)
7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.
 - They did 2 things:
 - Applied the blood that kept the evil one and his works from destroying them
 - They ate all of the Lamb
 - The results:

David tells us in (Psalm 105:37)
“He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes.”
- Jesus gave us Holy Communion that we will be blessed, forgiven, healed and be successful.

WHAT WE NEED TO SEE WHEN WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION

- Jesus as our Savior and Lord
- We are one Body – the Body of Christ

(John 17:11)

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

- There is no Jew or Gentile; color or race distinction; denomination; nationality; social status - rich or poor; gifted or less gifted. We are one in Christ.
- We are children of His covenant – a blood covenant which cannot be broken.
- God works by covenant.
 - The rainbow
 - Circumcision
 - Blood sacrifice
 - Communion

CONCLUSION

- Is the blood real blood and the bread real flesh?
- No, because:
 - The Bible forbids the eating of blood and human flesh
 - Jesus taught in parables – symbols and types
 - Communion is symbolic of His broken body and His shed blood.
- How shall we come to celebrate Communion?

(1 Corinthians 11:28-32)

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

- "Examine himself" or judge himself as being chastened by the Lord.
 - He will not be condemned by the world.
- "To eat and drink in an unworthy manner" is to be condemned with the world and be afflicted with weaknesses, sicknesses and die prematurely.
- "To discern the Lord's body" is the Church – the body of Christ.