

## Lesson No. 21

# What Does the Bible Say About the Nature of the Lord's Supper?

## 1. What is the Lord's Supper?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

*Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.* \*(a) Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which He was betrayed, took (c) bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His (b) disciples and (c) said, Take, eat; this is (d) My body, which is given for you. (b) Do this in remembrance of Me. In the same manner He also took the (c) cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them (c) saying, Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in (d) My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. (b) This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, on the evening before His death.
- (B) It is intended for His Christians who are to celebrate this sacrament often in remembrance of Him.
- (C) In the same we eat and drink bread and wine (Matthew 26:29) which have been consecrated by the words of institution.
- (D) In, with, and under the bread we receive, with our mouth, but in a manner which we cannot explain or understand, the true body of Christ; and in, with, and under the wine we receive the true blood of Christ. (Real presence.) (Other names for the Lord's Supper are Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, the Lord's Table, the Breaking of Bread, and the Eucharist.)

## 2. What do the Scriptures teach of the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Luke 22:19,20.* This is My body which is **given for you**... This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is **shed for you**.
- \*(b) *1 Corinthians 10:16.* The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** of the body of Christ?
- (c) *1 Corinthians 11:27.* 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.
- (d) *Mark 14:24.* This is My blood of the new **covenant**.
- (d) *Galatians 3:15.* Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one **annuls or adds to it**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We are firmly to believe in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper

- (A) Because, according to the Scriptures, Jesus says, "This is My body", the same body "which is given for you" into death, and "This is My blood", the same blood "which is shed for you" on the cross;
- (B) Because, according to the Scriptures, the cup, or wine, is the "communion" of the blood of Christ, and the bread is the "communion" of the body of Christ;
- (C) Because, according to the Scriptures, unworthy communicants are guilty, not of bread and wine, but of the body and blood of Christ;

- (D) Because, according to the Scriptures, the Lord's Supper is a divine institution and testament which no man may alter.

### 3. Are bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Christ by the act of consecration?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*1 Corinthians 11:26-28.* For as often as you **eat this bread** and **drink this cup**, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 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. But let a man examine himself, and so let him **eat of the bread** and **drink of the cup**. (See also 1 Corinthians 10:16.)

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Bread and wine are not changed into the body and blood of Christ, for the Bible expressly declares that we eat bread and drink wine in the Sacrament.

### 4. For what use does Christ, in, with, and under the bread and wine give us Christians His body and blood?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

(a b c d) *Matthew 26:26.* Take, **eat...** **Drink** from it, **all of you**.

(b) *Mark 14:23.* **They all drank** from it.

(d) *Hebrews 10:14,18.* For by one offering **He has perfected forever** those who are being sanctified... Now where there is remission of these, there is **no longer an offering** for sin.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

(A) Christ gives us His body and His blood to eat and to drink.

(B) All communicants should receive the wine as well as the bread.

(C) We are not to adore the bread and wine; for the Lord has declared that we should eat the bread and drink the wine. The body and blood of Christ are present only when the communicant receives the elements.

(D) The idea that the Sacrament is a real, though unbloody, sacrifice for the sins of the living and the dead is contrary to the Word of God, which teaches that Christ's one sacrifice made full atonement for all sins.

### 5. Why should we receive the Lord's Supper frequently?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

(a) *1 Corinthians 11:25,26.* **This do, as often** as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For **as often** as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

(a,b) *Luke 22:19,20.* This is My body which is **given for you; do this in remembrance of Me**. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is **shed for you**.

(b) *Matthew 26:28.* For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many **for the remission of sins**.

\*(b c) *Matthew 11:28.* Come to Me, all you who **labor** and are **heavy laden**, and I will **give you rest**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

We should receive the Lord's Supper frequently

(A) Because Christ commands us to do so;

(B) Because He promises us His blessings, especially the forgiveness of sins;

(C) Because we are in great and constant need of forgiveness and strength.

*Before the Next Lesson*

**FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 21.**

**MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (\*).**



**READ Ephesians, chapters 3-6; First Peter, chapters 1-3.**

*Work Sheet No. 21*

**1.**

What does the communicant receive in the Lord's Supper

(A) According to Reformed (Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, etc.) teaching? .....

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(B) According to Roman Catholic teaching?.....

(C) According to the Bible and Lutheran teaching?.....

**2.**

Which other false doctrines and unscriptural practices with regard to the Lord's Supper, or Mass, are found in the Roman Catholic Church?

(A) .....

(B) .....

(C) .....

**3.**

What should move a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

(cf. Christian Questions in Luther's Small Catechism)

(A).....

(B) .....

(C).....

**4.**

As you go to Holy Communion, what does your Lord say to you in Isaiah 42:3 and John 6:37?

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