

Lesson No. 22

What Does the Bible Say About the Benefit and the Proper Use of the Lord's Supper?

1. What is the benefit of the Lord's Supper?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

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**.

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

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

In the Lord's Supper Christ gives to every individual communicant, as a pledge and guarantee of the forgiveness of his sins, that same body and blood with which He earned for us the forgiveness of sins.

2. For what purpose, then, do we approach the Lord's Table?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

(a c) *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**.

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

(b) *2 Corinthians 5:15,17.* He died for all, that those who live should live **no longer for themselves, but for Him** who died for them and rose again... Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

*(d) *1 Corinthians 11:26.* For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** till He comes.

(e) *1 Corinthians 10:17.* For we, though many, are one bread and **one body**; for we all partake of that one bread.

*(e) *Acts 2:42.* And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and fellowship, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We approach the Lord's Table

(A) Chiefly to be strengthened in our faith in the forgiveness of our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ;

(B) To obtain strength for a holier life; (Being strengthened in our faith, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God, and this, in turn, urges us to lead a life which is well pleasing to Him.)

(C) Lovingly to remember Christ and His bitter suffering and death which He endured for us;

(D) To confess the crucified Christ before men;

(E) To bear witness that we are of one faith with those who commune with us.

3. Does everyone who goes to the Sacrament receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of his sins?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

1 Corinthians 11:29. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks **judgment** to himself, not **discerning the Lord's body**.

Heb. 11:6. But without faith it is impossible to please Him (God).

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

An unworthy guest, that is, a communicant who has not true faith, receives the Sacrament not for the forgiveness of his sins, but to his own great harm.

(While all communicants receive Christ's body and blood, only worthy communicants receive the benefit of the Sacrament. Forgiveness of sins has been placed into the Sacrament by the words of Christ, "Given for you," "Shed for you," "For the remission of sins." By means of these words He offers, gives, and seals the forgiveness of sins to all communicants. It is only by believing these words that forgiveness of sins is received.)

4. What should we therefore do before partaking of Communion?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a d) **1 Corinthians 11:28,29.** But let a man **examine** himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body.**
- (b) **Psalm 51:17.** The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart--** these, O God, You will not despise.
- (b c) **Mark 1:15.** **Repent,** and **believe** in the gospel.
- (c) **2 Corinthians 13:5.** Examine yourselves as to whether you **are in the faith.** Test yourselves.
- (e) **John 5:14.** See, you have been made well. **Sin no more,** lest a worse thing come upon you.
- (e) **Psalm 119:32.** **I will run the course of Your commandments,** for You shall enlarge my heart.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We should

- (A) Examine ourselves to see,
- (B) Whether we truly repent of our sins;
- (C) Whether we trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior;
- (D) Whether we firmly believe that in the Lord's Supper we receive with the bread and the wine the true body and blood of Christ;
- (E) Whether we have the good and earnest purpose with the aid of God the Holy Ghost hence-forth to amend our sinful lives.

5. May believers whose faith is weak approach the Lord's Table?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Mark 9:24. Lord, I believe; **help** my unbelief!

Isaiah 42:3. A **bruised reed** He will not break, and **smoking flax** He will not quench.

* **John 6:37.** The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Believers whose faith is weak should especially come to the Lord's Supper that their weak faith may grow stronger.

6. To whom must the Lord's Supper be denied?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **1 Corinthians 11:29.** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks **judgment** to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body.**
- (b) **Acts 2:42.** And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the **breaking of bread,** and in prayers.
- (c) **Romans 16:17.** Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, **contrary to the doctrine** which you learned, and **avoid them.**
- *(c) **Matthew 5:23,24.** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First **be reconciled to your brother,** and then come and offer your gift.
- (d) **1 Corinthians 11:28.** But let a man **examine himself,** and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (Close Communion.)

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Lord's Supper must be denied

- (A) To those who are known to be ungodly and impenitent;
- (B) To those of a different faith, since the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the unity of faith;
- (C) To those who have given offense and have not removed it;
- (D) To those who are not able to examine themselves, such as children and adults who have not been sufficiently instructed, and persons who are unconscious.

(We admit to the Lord's Table only those who have received sufficient instruction in the chief parts of Christian doctrine and have confessed their faith. Such confession of faith is made on the day of confirmation. At that time the catechumens are received into communicant membership by the congregation, which also prays for them that they may grow in grace, be steadfast in the profession of their faith, become fruitful in every good work, and in the end receive the crown of life.)

(We also ask of all who wish to commune at our altar that they make their intention known to the pastor so that he may have occasion to speak to them in the interest of their spiritual welfare – this is called announcement or registration for Holy Communion.)

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 22.

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



READ First Peter, chapters 4 and 5. Also Psalms 1, 2, 19, 22, and 23.

Work Sheet No. 22

1.

The Gospel which we hear and read brings us the assurance that all our sins are blotted out by the blood of Jesus. The Lord's Supper makes this assurance doubly sure. How?

.....

.....

2.

(Check the correct statements.)

- (A) All communicants receive Christ's body and blood.
- (B) Only believing communicants receive Christ's body and blood.
- (C) All communicants receive forgiveness of sins.
- (D) Only believing communicants receive forgiveness of sins.

3.

A church member goes to Holy Communion. He professes to believe in Jesus Christ, but is living in a certain sin which he does not intend to give up.

(A) Is he a worthy communicant?

(B) Prove the correctness of your answer.....

.....

.....

4.

Prove that the principle, "Only those in confessional agreement may commune together," is in accord with the Scriptures.

.....