

WHAT'S NEXT?

GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR SUNDAY SERVICE



April 26, 2021

This week we are looking at our response to Pastor Ronnie Phillips Jr.'s sermon titled, "The Covenant of Communion" (Luke 22:7-20). Take time to examine this message more closely, alone or with a family or friend. This message will also be discussed on Sunday in many LifeGroups at Abba's House.

1. On Sunday we gathered around the communion table as a church family and celebrated the faith that we share in common because of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pastor Ronnie took us reverently and prayerfully to the communion table. It was a refreshing opportunity for reflection on the beaten and pierced body of our Christ and the blood that He poured out, removing the guilt of our sin. Before we go any further today, stop and read Luke 22:7-20.
2. The meal that Jesus served the disciples was a ritual commemoration of deliverance of the Jewish people by God from their slavery in Egypt and the passing over of the angel of death for those who put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their house. In what ways does this meal picture what Jesus did for those who will receive Him into their lives?
3. Pastor Ronnie explained how we prepare to receive communion: Examine our Hearts, Evaluate our Relationships, Enjoy the Finished work of our Savior, and Expect a Miracle.

WHAT'S NEXT:

As you go through this week, remember reverently and with thankfulness all that Christ has done for you. Spend time in prayer asking the Lord to remove anything from your life that does not reflect the love and life of Jesus. Determine each day to serve Him with grateful devotion and obedience.

GOING DEEPER:

Names of Holy Communion

1. Eucharist:

The name "Eucharist" is derived from the word eucharistesas, meaning to give thanks. In primitive times it described the entire service finishing with the consecration of the bread and wine, the communion elements themselves (1 Corinthians 14:16).

2. Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is intended to awaken our hearts and call to mind the divinity and blessing of Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice for us at Calvary. "Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25).

3. Breaking of Bread:

The phrase "breaking of bread" in Acts 2:42-46 describes the early church breaking bread in fellowship together. The early Christians met often for shared meals, which included the breaking of bread.

4. Communion:

The term communion originates from 1 Corinthians 10:16, "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?"

The Jewish Roots of Communion. At the end of his life, Jesus Christ, a Jew, ate the Passover meal with his disciples. Originally observed as a ritual supper in commemoration of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the Passover meal was transformed that night in the upper room by Jesus Himself into an observance of his soon-coming sacrifice. We do this in remembrance of Him, in remembrance of His life, death, and resurrection. He is prophetic fulfillment, the new and eternal Passover Lamb who frees men from the slavery of evil and the punishment of physical and spiritual death. Jesus' sacrifice transfers all who believe into everlasting life as children of God.

HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR COMMUNION?

I. Biblical Preparation Required of Us

Jesus was the fulfillment of the Passover! He was doing a new thing!

Matthew 5:17, "Do not think I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish (overthrow/put an end to), but to fulfill!"

Ephesians 2:14-15, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations."

His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

Before Receiving Communion

We must be spiritually prepared for it. The bible says, "Whoever eats of this bread or drinks of this cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:27)."

Paul, in effect, told us don't make a mockery of this ordinance.

A. Examine our Hearts. Have you given your heart and life to Jesus? As you prepare to take communion, examine your heart. What needs to be brought to the feet of Jesus? Have you been religious and never truly been saved?

B. Evaluate our Relationships. We shouldn't have divisions among us when we take communion. The Bible says we shouldn't even bring an offering if we have anger or malice toward another believer. (1 Corinthians 11). The Bible teaches that if we have something against a fellow believer, our gift, or "offering," will not be blessed until we first go to our brother or sister in Christ and make amends: "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" (Matt. 5:23-24).

C. Enjoy the finished work of our Savior.

Yes, communion brings introspection, but it is something to enjoy! Aren't you thankful for the blood of Jesus, His victory over sin, death, and hell that brings eternal life and abundant life in your life today?

Take a moment to enjoy what Jesus has done for you. Remember what the blood and the bread represents. It is the finished work of Jesus Christ that made us one and makes us new! I declare joy over you. Enjoy the new covenant of His grace, mercy, and love.

D. Expect a Miracle

It is indeed the meal that heals. This meal is supposed to bring healing to you. You become one with Jesus in the partaking of healing. Expect a turnaround, fulfillment, supernatural harvest, and healing. Genuine expectation leads to a divine manifestation. Expect to be healed. Expect a harvest. Expect a turn around. Expect to fulfill your God-given purpose. Psalm 91:16 promises, "With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation." Expect it, believe it, receive it!

II. Spiritual Significance Revealed to Us

Jesus revealed Himself and fulfilled His Promise as our Passover Lamb by dying on the cross for us just a few days after he instituted the Lord's Supper.

- He was a spotless lamb without sin or blemish (John 1:29)
- Unleavened Bread represents a body in perfect unity that is void of all leaven = Sin.
 - He is our Bread of Life – (John 6)
 - Eating of the Passover Lamb revealed the believers need for nourishment.
 - He shed His Blood and painted it on the doorposts of humanity. In Him we have redemption through the blood of Jesus – forgiveness of sins. For it is by grace (Ephesians 1:7) that there is life in the blood of Jesus! He loves us with an everlasting love. Jesus had to die, but He chose to die. The law was purged by the blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
 - Communion is tied to the Lord's Death and the Kingdom He left us and will come back to reign over!

III. Prophetic Fulfillment Remembered by Us! (Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:26)

- Do this in remembrance of me!
- Remember how God liberated Israel from Egyptian Slavery.
- Remember how the blood of Jesus delivered us from sinful slavery. Remember that life is in the blood.
- Remember how the body of Christ is supposed to be ONE!

- Remember how He was pierced and striped! Remember his body of flesh that was beaten, His body on earth (His church), His resurrected body of believers!
- Hebrews 9:11-15

Further Reading: Communion in the Bible

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you'" Luke 22:19-20

"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:26-28

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." 1 Corinthians 10:16-17