

Filled To The Brim With The Fullness Of God

Acknowledging, Analyzing, & Applying God's Power For The Church

Humility & Obedience To The Point Of Death:

Fixing Our Focus & Faith On Jesus

Selected Portions from John 14–15; Philippians 2; & Hebrews 9–12

A Supplement To **Encourage** Additional Study
& **Enrich** Our Understanding Of God's Word

Some Relevant Statements, Quotations, & Biblical References Related to *The Lord's Supper*

"What you have in the Bible is the truth of God verbally. What you have in the Lord's Supper is the truth of God visibly." —**Alistair Begg**

"Jesus died as our Substitute and He paid the entire price required by God's justice system. He paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt that we could not pay. That's a perfect mixture of mercy & grace. Our only fitting response is placing our total trust & complete confidence in Him as our Savior & Lord!" —**GAD**

"There are times when the maddening pace of life must screech to a halt and we deliberately stand or sit or kneel in awe of our Savior's sacrifice and reconsider the cross, the price He paid for us, the awful sacrifice made on our behalf. The Lord established a sacred memorial that forces us to return again and again and again and again to the cross." —**Chuck Swindoll**

"Every observance of the Lord's Supper is an opportunity to examine your heart and confess your sins. It's a time to remember the life and death of Jesus, and to anticipate His return to take us to Glory."

—**David Jeremiah**

"What most of us don't realize is that we are being transformed in our thinking all the time—either by the world's value system or by the truth of God's Word." —**Chip Ingram**

"Hell exists because unbelievers are eternally guilty. The powerful lesson to be learned is that no human being's suffering can ever be a payment for sin. If our suffering could erase even the most insignificant sin, then those in hell would eventually be freed after their debt was paid. But all human goodness and suffering from the beginning of time, if added together, could not cancel so much as a single sin." —**Erwin Lutzer**

"You may think that you are insignificant in the great plan of God, but you are not. You are tremendously important to God—so much so that Jesus died for you, and the Holy Spirit lives in you. You may seem small in your own eyes, and this is good; because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. However, don't let your humility become sin by making you believe you can do nothing for God. God can use you to help Him accomplish His will on this earth." —**Warren W. Wiersbe**

Please use this devotional as a tool to gain greater understanding & to retain/remember what we're learning from this study!

—Some Additional Thoughts to Help Introduce This Week's Study:

One of the common challenges we face as faithful followers of Christ involves avoiding the natural tendency of turning something we do on a regular basis into a "go through the motions" routine. That can happen when we pray before a meal, when we sing familiar worship songs, when we answer a greeting like "How are you doing?", when we use a remote to close the garage door as we drive away from home, or when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. It's normal for us to do something without thinking when it's something repetitive. (We are creatures of habit & our habits typically become part of our mindless routines.)

In this series of sermons/studies, we're attempting to gain a clearer understanding of "what is the Church?" & "why does it exist?" In this week's study, we're taking a closer look at "why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?" & "what impact does it have on us when we participate in it?" Before going any farther with this, please allow me to explain that this has been questioned, discussed, & debated ever since it was initially introduced by Jesus in the Upper Room on the night before He was crucified. Therefore, I'm not trying to argue about anything & our approach will be simply to allow God's Word to help us see the value & importance of celebrating this sacred reminder of Christ's sacrificial provision for our salvation.

Based on what I believe the Bible teaches us, here's a summary of what we'll be studying in this devotional.

- The Lord's Supper is a celebration of worship that reminds us:
 - who Jesus is;
 - what He has done;
 - what He is doing now;
 - the absolute importance for us to be dependent on Him alone!

Please carefully read 1 Corinthians 11:23–32 & each of the Bible passages included with the questions. Please note that 1 Corinthians 10 was not included in the sermon notes, but it will be beneficial for doing this portion of our study.

—1— In reading 1 Corinthians 11:23–32, please realize that Paul wrote 1 Corinthians before Matthew, Mark, and Luke were written. So this is the earliest account of the first Lord’s Supper. Based on what this says and also from Galatians 1:11–12, it’s very likely that Jesus directly revealed this to Paul. First, let’s focus our attention on verses 23–26. The phrase, “do this in remembrance of Me” instructs us to “remember” Christ. In the Lord’s Supper, Jesus gave us an appropriate picture that gives us a more vivid view than any other image we might have. In our day & age, often we have pictures in frames & on our phones. These jog our minds & touch our hearts. But Jesus gave us a more practical way to jog our thinking & touch our emotions. The bread represents the idea that His body, (that was God Almighty in a human body) was nailed to a criminal’s cross as the perfect substitute for us. The cup of grape wine/juice represents the reality that Jesus’ blood was shed to cleanse us from the stain of sin. (Note 1 John 1:5–2:2) **Why is it important for us to pause & remember what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross? Do you believe that it’s spiritually & emotionally healthy for us to remember why Jesus died for us? Why/why not? In a practical way, how can we avoid the natural tendency to make the Lord’s Supper a casual or routine ritual?**

—2— Now let’s shift our attention to John 14:1–11. In these verses, the disciples were troubled at the thought of what might happen to Jesus. In an attempt to calm them, Jesus identifies Himself in two very specific ways & He also promises to them that even though He was going to a place where they couldn’t immediately follow Him, He would return and to take them with Him. Please take some time to prayerfully read John 14:1–11. **What do Jesus’s words reveal about Him? What stands out to you from this conversation between Jesus and his disciples hours before his death? Why? What sense of comfort or assurance do you find in the promise Jesus made about going to prepare a place for His disciples? Why is it important for us to recognize that when Jesus said He was preparing a place for “us,” that He was referring to His sacrifice for sin?**

—3— Now let’s place our emphasis on John 15:1–11. **What thoughts go through your mind when you read that Jesus is the Vine that supplies what we, as His branches, need to produce fruit of righteousness? How would you respond if someone would ask you if bearing fruit for Christ your purpose or priority in life? What activities, relationships, or priorities might need to be pruned out of your life for you to become more fruitful? How does celebrating the Lord’s Supper prompt you to deal with this concern?**

—4— In Philippians 2:1–11, we find some strong exhortations about the example Christ provided for us. **After prayerfully re-reading these verses, what are some personal and practical thoughts that come to your mind about what they are saying to you (how they apply to you)?** Let’s summarize what Christ did when He emptied Himself in this way:
1} Our Lord laid aside **position**. He was and continued to be God, but at His incarnation our Lord stepped down from His exalted position beside the Father in glory. He took the position of a humble servant.
2} Our Lord laid aside **possessions**. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, “that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
3} Our Lord laid aside **privilege**. He left the infinite Glory of Heaven to come to a world controlled by sin.
How does this passage help us prepare for celebrating the Lord’s Supper? How does this passage help us realize the importance of what Philippians 1:27 says? What steps could we take to make our conduct more worthy of the Gospel?

—5— In Hebrews 9:23–10:18, the main emphasis is that Jesus died once for all time to pay for every sin that we have committed. Also considering 1 John 1:5–2:2, **since Christ’s sacrifice covers all our sins, why do we still need to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness? How does confessing our sins help us maintain a sincere sense of humility? Why is it important to view the Lord’s Supper as a remembrance of His death = all that He accomplished when He died, & was resurrected from the grave?**

—6— How is it helpful for us to regularly remind ourselves about —who Jesus is; —what He has done; —what He is doing now; & —the absolute importance for us to be dependent on Him alone?