

Filled To The Brim With The Fullness Of God

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

The Lord's Supper Is A Prophetic Proclamation

That Speaks Louder Than We Realize

1 Corinthians 11:23–32 & 1 Thessalonians 1:4–10

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

Some Relevant Statements About Holiness & Hope For the Future

"Like an anchor, our hope in Christ stabilizes us in the storms of life, but unlike an anchor, our hope moves us forward, it does not hold us back."

—Warren W. Wiersbe

"Our hope in Christ & His promises is more than a 'casual or nonchalant' **hope so**. God's will for each of us is to have a confident assurance of future glory and blessing. Celebrating the Lord's Supper provides us with an amazing reminder of this truth. We should guard ourselves from the natural tendency we might have to make it an empty ritual by realizing that it's a gift from God to strengthen our faith; a memo from Him to stabilize our walk with Christ; and a wake-up call to straighten out our steps when we begin to fall into temptation!"

—GAD

"He who was a Son by nature becomes a servant so that we, who by nature are servants of sin, might become sons and daughters. What an amazing exchange!"

—Alistair Begg

"The Lord's Supper is a direct command from Jesus. The Lord of all the universe says to the His people, 'Do this!' This meal is important to our Lord. He made that clear. He was infinitely wise when He said, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' The Lord's Supper is not a fad; it's a command."

—David Anderson

"The Lord's Supper is not only a reminder of his brutal death, but it is also a celebration of the incredibly generous grace of God and the invaluable privilege of being forgiven. Partake with a grateful heart that can say along with generations of Christians, 'Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!'"

—Mike Fabaraz

"The Lord's Supper can't save us from the penalty of sin, but it paints a portrait of what Christ did to pay the penalty for all who trust in Him!"

"In the cross, God's wrath has been turned away from us. And in the cross, our sin is canceled and is imputed to his dearly beloved Son."

—Alistair Begg

"The Lord's Supper is a time for personal examination and celebration, highlighting its significance as a memorial of Christ's sacrifice and a reminder of our need to examine our hearts."

—David Jeremiah

"There is no such thing as a harmless addition to the gospel. Given the popular widespread misconceptions of Christianity, it is time we returned to the basics. If we don't, thousands of people who believe they are Christians will discover in the day of judgment that they were misled."

—Erwin Lutzer

"The Lord's Supper is a sacred symbol, a solemn and joyful celebration, and a frequent reminder of Jesus' sacrifice, urging believers to focus on His person and work."

—Chuck Swindoll

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

Our series of studies = "What Is The Church & Why Does It Exist?"
Last week we started to take a closer look at God's prophetic plans that lead to the Rapture of the Church, the Great Tribulation on earth, & the future Kingdoms: (Israel & then the New Heavens & Earth). Since in our worship service this week, we're celebrating the Lord's Supper, our study includes a perspective on how this relates to God's prophetic promises. To prepare for this study, please carefully read 1 Corinthians 11:23–32; 1 Thessalonians 1:4–10; 1 John 2:18–3:3 & any other passages included in these questions. This particular set of questions will be a review of the glorious message of God's gracious provision for our forgiveness from sin! Please allow God to speak to you in a very personal way!!!!!!

—1— Sometimes God can get our attention by using what Bible teachers say when they are either preaching, teaching, or explaining the meaning of a Bible passage. On a personal level, God has often used a comment or statement I heard or read to show me something beneficial. It might be encouraging to read thru the quotes that are listed beginning on the front page of this study guide. **What personal thoughts come to your mind when you read them? Are there any ideas that grab your attention & make you want to dig deeper into what the Bible might say about them? Can you detect a specific theme or truth that is repeated thru out this list?**

—2— The first PRACTICAL TRUTH provided in this study stated, “When we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we’re **looking back** at Christ’s death, burial, & resurrection. Please notice what’s said in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 & carefully observe the sequence of the ideas presented in the passage. 1) Paul was directly given these instructions by Jesus when He appeared to him in a vision (probably mentioned in 2 Corinthians 12).

2) On the night when Jesus was betrayed He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread into pieces, & offered it to His disciples, saying, “This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me!”

3) The after supper, He took the cup of wine, telling them, “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

4) Then Paul said, “As often as you eat this bread, & drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

—Why is it significant that Paul first explained that he received these guidelines directly from Jesus?

—How would you explain the reasons why we should participate in the Lord’s Supper?

—What personal impact/influence does the Lord’s Supper have on you?

—The bread symbolizes the body of Christ. He was God in the form of a human. What does using bread in this way help us realize about Jesus?

—Remembering doesn’t mean just calling to memory. It involves realizing that the event actually happened. The Lord’s Supper is not just something Christians do to bring the memory of Jesus back into fresh view; it’s a memorial of the salvation that He accomplished by His death and resurrection.

—In 1 John 1:5–10 we read that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin. Why is it important for us to realize that Jesus was the Perfect Sacrifice?

—What personal impact does that reality have on our relationship with the Lord?

—3— The second PRACTICAL TRUTH states, “When we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we’re looking forward to Christ’s return to take us to Glory!” Please carefully observe 1 Corinthians 11:26. **How does this verse help us see that there’s a relationship between the Lord’s Supper & God’s promises made thru prophecy? How does this point to the hope we have in what God has promised to us?**

Isaiah 53, along with many other prophecies in the Old Testament, accurately predicted that God would send a Savior to save His people from their sins. I’ve heard of many people, especially those from a Jewish background, who have come to faith in their Messiah by reading how Isaiah 53 describes the Messiah & then recognizing that it was a perfect description of Jesus. **How does knowing that God has fulfilled all the biblical promises about Christ coming into the world to save us from sin strengthen our ability to trust in the prophecies that Jesus is coming back to rescue us from the God’s wrath during the Future Tribulation?**

The Lord’s Supper is a proclamation of Jesus’ death and resurrection, because He couldn’t come again if He wasn’t raised from the dead. Each time we participate in the Lord’s Supper could be the last. The trumpet could sound, the dead in Christ will rise, and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air! **How does the Lord’s Supper remind us to be ready for that day?** That leads us to the final **PRACTICAL TRUTH!**

—4— *Whenever we properly participate in the Lord’s Supper, we’re looking inward to examine our lives to help us avoid sinful conduct that hinders & harms the Lord’s reputation!* Please carefully read 1 Corinthians 11:23–32 & 1 John 1:5–10 & 2:28–3:3. When we become too casual about our sin or too nonchalant about the Lord’s Supper, we’re showing disrespect for all that the Lord has done for us.

—What personal thoughts do you have about Paul’s serious warning that we should examine ourselves before participating in the Lord’s Supper?

—How does the Lord’s Supper help us acknowledge our depravity & the full extent of our sinful nature? How does it help us acknowledge God’s gracious gift of forgiveness?

—Some people believe that focusing on our sinfulness is discouraging. How does the Lord’s Supper provide a balance between our problem with sin & our provision from Christ to properly deal with sin?

—In a practical manner, how can we avoid making the Lord’s Supper an empty ritual or routine where we simply go thru the motions?

THE LORD’S SUPPER is:

- 1} a GIFT from God to STRENGTHEN our ability to trust Him!
- 2} a MEMO from God to STABILIZE our walk with Christ!
- 3} a WAKE UP CALL to STRAIGHTEN OUT our steps when we begin to fall into temptation!