

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Cor. 10:14-33

Intro: The Lord's Supper is like practically every other important doctrine of Scripture -- it seems that the Scriptures which deal with it are practically inexhaustible.

It certainly takes precedence over every other doctrine of the Word of God. This is undoubtedly one of the reasons we are to observe this memorial Supper frequently -- to bring our thoughts back to this central truth of Scripture.

The passage before us suggests four reasons as to why this is important for us:

- 1) The first has to do with each of us personally.
- 2) The second has to do with all of us as a church (and with all other true believers in Christ).
- 3) The third has to do with the world.
- 4) The fourth and last has to do with God Himself.

I. The Importance for Each of Us Personally (1 Cor. 10:16).

"Communion" means fellowship, and fellowship means that there is a participation, a sharing.

When we take the bread and the cup we are testifying to the fact that we are taking part in all of the benefits which have been gained by the sacrifice.

II. The Importance for All of Us as a Church (1 Cor. 10:17).

This is an expression of our unity -- the oneness that is ours because of our mutual relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. Our unity is in Him -- not in ourselves, nor in the fact that we all believe the same things, nor in our Church, BUT IN CHRIST!

There should be a renewal of this every time we come to the Lord's Table.

III. The Importance for the World, i.e., for People Who Do Not Know the Lord (1 Cor. 10:27-29).

These verses really give the reason for bringing up the Lord's Supper at this point -- because eating meat offered to idols had the same significance in the heathen mind that eating the bread and drinking from the cup had to the believer. It meant a participation. No person can be trusting in the Lord and in idols at the same time, or in the Lord and anything else at the same time. So this is a declaration of our trust in the Lord alone, and our deliberate intention to separate ourselves from every other possible hope.

Finally,

IV. The Importance as far as God Is Concerned (1 Cor. 10:31).

In no way do I mean to suggest that this is the only important part of the Lord's Supper, but this is far more extensive than we might at first think.

Vv. 32, 33 show that this is even related to point III. How these verses have been twisted to mean exactly the opposite of what they were intended to mean.

But what we want to see is that we are to take the bread and the cup to the glory of God, i.e., to show that we are giving Him the glory for our salvation, and that we have renounced all other possible hopes to trust exclusively in Him.

And this in turn is to affect everything else that we do.

Concl: From all of this we can see why it is important for us to come to the Lord's Table frequently:

- 1) So as to be reminded of the ground of our hope.
- 2) So as to be drawn back to the actual experience of our oneness in Christ. Here we stand on exactly the same ground.
- 3) So as to be reminded of our witness to the world.
- 4) So we can keep living in all that we do to the glory of God.