The Lord’s Supper

Intro: Paul discusses the Lord’s Supper in 1 Cor. 11:23-34 “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 23 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 24 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 25 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come. 26 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 27 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 28 But let him that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eat and drink unto damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. 29 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 30 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 31 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 32 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. 33 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.”

The death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are fundamental facts of the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”). In this lesson, I want us to consider the commemoration of Christ’s death as is observed in the Lord’s Supper. In considering this subject, let us study it from the five looks of this memorial. When we gather around the table, we should look:

I. UPWARD
   A. Jesus gave thanks:
      1. Luke 22:19 “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”
      2. Mat. 26:27 “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;”
   B. We are to look up in gratitude.
      1. In our prayers, we should express gratitude.
      2. We should thank Him for the elements:
         a. unleavened bread
         b. fruit of the vine
      3. We should thank Him for what those elements represent.
         a. The body of Christ.
         b. The blood of Christ.

II. BACKWARD
   A. It is to be done in remembrance of Jesus
      1. Luke 22:19 “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”
      2. 1 Cor. 11:24-25 “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”
   B. It is a memorial supper to keep alive the memory of Jesus in our hearts.
C. Our minds need to be going back to the death of Jesus.
   1. We should remember how He died:
      a. That He died willingly.
      b. That He died meekly.
      c. That He died vicariously.
   2. We should see His body which bled and died for us:
      a. We see the crown of thorns beat down on His head.
      b. We see the torn and bloody mess of His back and side from the scourging.
      c. We see the spikes going into His hands and feet and the blood flowing from them.
      d. We see the spear thrust into His side and blood and water flowing down from it.

III. Outward
   A. It is a declaration.
   B. 1 Cor. 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”
      1. Shew is from the Greek καταγγέλλω (kataggello).
         a. It means “to make known in public, with implication of broad dissemination, proclaim, announce” (BDAG).
         b. Zodhiates adds, “to tell, declare, To declare plainly, openly, or aloud. (1) To announce, proclaim. In the sense of laud, celebrate (Rom. 1:8; 1 Cor. 11:26).”
      2. As we partake of the communion, we are proclaiming to the world that Christ died.
      3. The Supper stands as a constant witness of His death.

IV. Forward
   A. 1 Cor. 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”
   B. God's people are a forward-looking people.
   C. Christ will come again:
      1. John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
      2. Acts 1:11 “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”
   D. We look forward to the coming of Christ.
      1. Tit. 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”
      2. 2 Pet. 3:11-12 “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”
      3. That coming is the Christian's hope.
         a. Tit. 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
         b. 1 Pet. 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

V. Inward
   A. 1 Cor. 11:28-29 “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.”
B. **Man must examine himself.**
   1. 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
   2. Making sure we are eating the Supper remembering Christ’s death.

C. **Eating “unworthily.”**
   1. In one sense man is never worthy; Luke 17:10 “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”
   2. Here is has reference to the manner in which we partake (an adverb modifying eat and drink).

D. **We should ask:**
   1. Am I qualified to eat the Supper?
      a. All are under obligation to partake, but only those who are in the kingdom are qualified to partake.
      b. Luke 22:29-30 “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
      c. Mat. 26:29 “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”
   2. Am I clean?
      a. How unbecoming to eat with filthy hands.
      b. Clean by obedience to the Gospel?
         (1) 1 Pet. 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”
         (2) When one is baptized in water for salvation; Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
      c. Clean by living a purified life?
         (1) Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
         (2) 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”
   3. Am I remembering the Lord’s death as I partake of the Supper?
      a. 1 Cor. 11:24-25 “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”
      b. Do we allow our mind to wander?
   4. Am I aware of the Lord’s presence?
      a. It is a communion.
      b. Mat. 26:29 “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”
      c. 1 Cor. 10:16-17 “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.”

Conclusion: We have a wonderful opportunity to commune with our Lord. When we do let us look upward, backward, outward, forward, and inward.