Four Looks At The Supper

Intro: Paul in writing to the Corinthians gave us one of the most detailed studies of the Lord’s Supper. There are four looks he gives us which I want us to consider in this lesson; 1 Cor. 11:26-29  

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come. 26Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 27But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 28For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

I. LOOK WITHOUT
   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. Shew
      1. It is from the Greek καταγγέλλω (katangello).
      2. It means “to make known in public, with implication of broad dissemination, proclaim, announce” (BDAG).
      3. 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).”
      4. As we partake of the Communion, we are proclaiming to the world that Christ died.
      5. It stands as a constant witness of his death.

II. LOOK 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. We look forward to the coming of Christ.
      1. John 14:1-4  “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”
      2. Acts 1:9-11  “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11Which 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.”
      3. 1 The. 4:13-18  “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”
   C. He is our hope.
      1. Tit. 1:2  “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
      2. 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,”
D. The unprepared dread His coming
1. 2 Thes. 1:6-9 "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"
2. Rev. 6:15-17 "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

E. The time of His coming is uncertain.
1. Mat. 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."
2. 2 Pet. 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

F. We must live in a state of watchfulness.
1. Mat. 24:42 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."
2. Mat. 25:13 "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
3. 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, looking 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?"

III. LOOK WITHIN
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. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."
B. Self-examination
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. We must make sure we are eating in memory of Christ’s death.
C. Unworthily
1. In one sense we are 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. The word here has reference to the manner in which we partake.
D. While all men are to partake of the Communion; only those who have obeyed the Gospel are qualified to partake of it.
E. It is a communion with Christ; 1 Cor. 10:16 "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?"

IV. LOOK BACKWARD
A. 1 Cor. 11:29 "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body."
B. We remember:
   1. That He died.
   2. How He died:
      a. He died willingly.
      b. He died meekly.
      c. He died vicariously.

C. We hear the seven great statements He made while on the cross.
   1. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.
   2. Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.
   3. Woman, behold thy Son!...Behold thy mother.
   4. My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?
   5. I thirst.
   6. It is finished
   7. Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.

D. We see the Lord’s body which bled and died for us.
   1. We see the crown of thorns beat down into His head.
   2. We see the torn and bloody mess of his back and side from the scourging.
   3. We see the spikes going into his hands and feet and the blood flowing from them.
   4. We see the spear thrust into His side and blood and water flowing down from it.

Conclusion: This Supper is to be partaken of each Sunday. Make sure you qualify yourself to partake of it acceptably by obeying the Gospel, and then look in the different ways we have studied in this lesson.