

29 April 2018

## The Lord's supper Pt 2 Participation shows obedience

This is our second and final study on the Lord's supper. In our previous teaching we established that Paul received from the risen Lord Jesus Christ the Lord's supper for the church, and in this study we will establish that participation in the supper shows obedience to the word of God.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. When ye come together in the church – have the Lord's supper.

"For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it" (1Cor 11:18), c.f. – 1Cor.11: 26 "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come".

There is no single verse that says we are to have the Lord's supper every time we come to worship, but there is an indication that as often as we come together we can receive the elements to show the Lord's death until He comes again.

### 2. Its an opportunity to examine ourselves before God and then eat and drink.

"let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (1Cor.11: 28).

We are to examine ourselves, "whether ye be in the faith", or whether we be reprobates (2Cor.13: 5), and David asked the Lord to examine him, "prove me; try my reins and my heart" (Ps.26: 2), but here in 1Cor.11 we are not encouraged to examine our faith, nor to ask God to prove us, but to examine our obedience to the Lord before we eat and drink.

### 3. If we discern ourselves unworthy – do not partake.

"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1Cor.11: 29).

## An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

In the Presbyterian church they only have communion once a month.

Whereas Salvationists do not participate in communion at all because of the Roman Catholic reference to the supper as a sacrament, which they avoid – "Unlike other Christian churches the Salvation Army does not recognise any sacraments, such as baptism or communion, as essential. The Army...believes that they are unnecessary, and may be unhelpful to some".

Question to think about.

i) What are the similarities and differences between the Old Testament feast of Passover and the Lord's supper?

ii) Is the Lord's supper essential for a believer?

My answer to our questions from the scriptures.

i) a) Similarities between the Old Testament feast of the Passover and the Lord's supper –

\* Both are given for the believer to remember the Lord – Passover (Deut.16: 3) and the Lord's supper (1Cor.11: 24 & 25), and

\* Participation by believers shows obedience to the commandments of God given by His spokesperson for that age, where Paul begins 1Cor.11 by saying "Be ye followers of me" (verse 1). And so in receiving the elements of bread and wine and remembering the Lord's death we obey God's commandments to the church.

i) b) Differences between the Old Testament feast of the Passover and the Lord's supper –

\* Those who did not take part in the Passover were cut off from Israel (Ex 12:15), whereas in the church age a Christian cannot lose his salvation by refusing the Lord's Supper.

\* The Lord's supper offers the Christian a time to examine themselves before their God, and a time to show the Lord's death until He comes again.

ii) There is no reference in the scriptures to indicate that the Lord's supper is essential for salvation, but when believers partake they show their obedience to the word of God. Amen!