**Communion & Baptism 8/21/22**

Communion is something we do because ***Jesus asked us to do it in remembrance*** of how He did it for us.

We all need to ***keep our hearts and flesh under control***; keep our spirits humble and get rid of some pride.

**Communion** had its roots in the OT and was practiced also in the NT.

**God’s children,** the Israelites had been in bondage for 430 years in Egypt.

* **Moses was their leader,** and he was ready to *lead them out of slavery*.
* To help this come to pass, **God sent** plagues and miracles ***to defeat the Egyptians.***
* **The last miracle God did -** He was going to
* Make the **“death angel”** pass over *the entire country of Egypt*
* **It would kill the 1st born** in every family whether it was a human or animal.
* It ***didn’t matter*** *how old the 1st born was*, **they would die** that night.

**But he gave his people a plan of escape.**

***He told the children of Israel*** to kill a pure and healthy lamb and spread its blood on the door posts of their homes -

* And when **the death angel** would see that blood,
* he would “***Passover***” that home, it ***would be protected against death.***

**Exodus 12:7-8 -** 7And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

**12**‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the Lord. **13**Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are.* And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

**This actual OT act** of killing a lamb became the symbol of ***Jesus in the NT***

***becoming the sacrificial lamb*** and *shedding his blood* **for our salvation** on

Calvary.

**John 1:29 - The Lamb of God -** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**Acts 20:28 -** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd ***the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.***

**There are many minor points they had to obey** which we will not go into today about the right kind of lamb, things that had to be ***obeyed in the house at the time of the Passover such as*** getting dressed, eating and getting ready to leave Egypt immediately the next day.

***Egypt was a type of sin*** or **being away from God…**

* *If you* ***obeyed*** *the Lord’s plan* of **being rescued and saved**, then *you made it*.
* *If you decided* ***not to listen*** *to God’s plan*, **your 1st born died,** be it a child, an adult, or an animal.

**That’s why it is so *important to live for God* -** because ***our kids*** *will suffer the most* **when we don’t**

**This all happened, and they all eventually fled slavery in Egypt**

* **Each and every year** at the same time,
* the Jews celebrated the “***Feast of the Passover”***
* **to remember** how God delivered them from bondage.
* It was also called **the “feast of unleavened bread”**

* All this was ***pointing down the road*** *of time*, 1,500 yrs. later when ***Jesus would gather with his disciples one last time*** for the “Feast of the Passover” before ***he was arrested and then crucified***.
* **The Jews** would *celebrate for days* and *give God thanks* **for delivering them and saving them.**
* They would remember **what God did** for their ancestors and how he

 was still *delivering them* and *saving them* **from sin.**

**Matthew 26:17-20** - **Jesus Celebrates Passover with His Disciples**

**17**Now on the first *day of the Feast* of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

**18**And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.”

**19**So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

**20**When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.

**Matthew 26:26-27 - Jesus Institutes the Lord’s Supper**

**26**And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed, and broke *it,* and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

**27**Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.

**28**For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. **29**But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

**30**And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

***Today, we call this practice, the “Communion Service” or taking part in the “Lords Supper”***

* We eat unleavened bread and drink the fruit of the vine (grape juice) ***in remembrance of how Jesus suffered and died for our salvation.***
* It’s **a time to *be thankful*** for what he did and is still doing!

**It’s not something we are commanded do** every day, every week or even every year but we are just supposed to do it on occasion ***as a time of recommitment and thankfulness unto God***.

* **The *grape juice* is symbolic** of the Lord’s blood and **the *bread* is symbolic** of his body that he paid as a price for our salvation.

**Does anyone appreciate what God did for us?**

**Is anyone thankful he paid the price so we could be saved?**

**Unleavened bread was used**; it had no yeast in it, ***it wasn’t puffed up*** like our ordinary slices of bread but it was *nearly flat like crackers*.

**Leaven has been compared to sin in the Bible** -

* **being** puffed up and full of carnality and sinfulness
* so, they used **unleavened** bread.

**The Wine**, unfortunately many ministers *take the KJV literally* ***when it says wine*** and *they think wine means* ***“alcoholic wine*”,** but ***the English word “wine”*** had *several different* ***Greek translations***.

* The only time the scriptures *ever spoke of alcoholic wine*, was when it said to ***stay away from it***.
* But when it spoke of ***wine as being fresh*** **“fruit juice”,** it spoke of it as being “the best” and “good for your stomach.”
* This is one reason *why we don’t use fermented alcoholic wine* in communion because ***the bible teaches adamantly against it.***

We use *the* ***natural juice*** *from fruit*, which is grape juice ***since Jesus talked about “the fruit of the vine”*** *which is grapes*.

At **the marriage in Cana** where ***Jesus turned the water into wine*.**

* ***The greek word for wine*** here is ***“gleukos”*** or “***new fresh juice”***
* **They saved the best for last**, *freshly squeezed juice* was the best stuff
* **Not** juice that had been ***sitting around and gotten old or fermented***
* **It was called** **“oinos”** which was *looked down on*, told to *stay away from it*.

**Proverbs 23:30-32 –**

**30** Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

**31**Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, W*hen* it swirls around smoothly;

**32At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.**

**The Apostle Paul later was telling *the church in Corinth* why it was important *to take communion* and *to remember what Jesus did for us*.**

**Institution of the Lord’s Supper –**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

23**For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you:**that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed ***took bread***; 24and when He had given thanks, ***He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”***

25In the same manner *He* also **took the cup** after supper, saying, “***This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”***

26For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

**Examine Yourself – 11:27-28 -** 27Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

**No one is worthy of what Jesus did for us,**

**but I am thankful** for *what Jesus did for me on Calvary*.

**Unworthy** means “*no merit, no value, not deserving*”.

* None of us is worthy or *deserved Calvary*.
* **Only Jesus has made us worthy by his sacrifice.**

***Paul uses the word “Unworthily” which means in an “unworthily manner or casual and unthankful manner”. KJV***

We can’t just walk up here and take communion like we eating pizza and drinking a Pepsi at a party…..**disrespectful or haphazardly.**

**“As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup”,** **It should never become so common place** where we just *do it each week*, or *it’s taken lightly*.

**LET US PRAY AND EXAMINE OURSELVES. COMMUNION SERVERS…..**

**Baptism Service**

**Baptism In The Name Of Jesus -Acts 4:12 - CEV**

**12**Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone.

**Question: "What is the proper mode of baptism?"

Baptism**, by its inherent definition, must be **an act of immersion in water**.

**Baptism illustrates** a believer’s identification **with Christ’s** death, burial, and resurrection.

**Romans 6:3-4 - CEV**

**3**Don’t you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized also share in his death?

**4**When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. ***We were baptized, so that we would live a new life***, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

* The action of being immersed in the water pictures ***dying and being buried with Christ.***
* The action of coming out of the water illustrates Christ’s resurrection.

**Baptism by immersion** ***is not*** a prerequisite **for salvation**.

It is rather **an act of obedience**, a **public proclamation** of faith in Christ and identification with Him.

**Baptism** is a picture of our ***leaving our old life*** and ***becoming a new creation***.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 - CEV**

**17**Anyone who belongs to Christ is **a new person**. The past is forgotten, and ***everything is new***.

**Baptism by immersion** is the only mode that ***fully illustrates this radical change***.