THE CHURCH:

What Do We Do In The Church?

Part 1 (The Lord's Supper)

In our study of the church, we have searched the scriptures for answers to the questions: what is the church and how do we enter the church? Christ’s church is made up of His followers who are rooted in Christ. And we enter via hearing the word, believing in Christ, confessing Him, repenting, and being baptized. So once we are in the church and a part of Christ’s family, what should we actually do in the church? The first thing I would like us to look at when answering this question is the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is of great importance to us – it is an important remembrance and the focus of our gathering.

**Acts 20:7**

* The purpose/priority/focus was to break bread, or remember Christ - to partake of the Lord's Supper
* They partook on the first day of the week

Need the proper conduct

**1 Cor. 11:17-22**

* We see what not to do - it isn't just eating some food and drink – it isn’t a common meal, but a meal with meaning

**1 Cor. 11:27-34**

* We need to examine ourselves; this isn't just any celebration or remembrance - we need to discern the Lord's body - recognize that there is true significance here, that we are remembering our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ
* We need to partake with sincerity and we need to partake together – it is indeed a part of the fellowship that we share together – not something to be taken individually whenever convenient for us

The Lord's Supper is an act of remembrance

**Luke 22:19**

* "in remembrance of Me"
* As we partake of the emblems, we are required to remember; we must control our minds and stop them from wandering; when we meet around the Lord's Table, we are to focus our minds and remember Christ – and a number of things relating to Him
* Particularly, we are to remember His death - He died for us, because of our sins, on the cross

**Luke 22:19-20**

* We are reminded of His body that was broken for us; Christ was beaten and nailed to the cross; His blood was shed and brought about a new covenant through that precious pure blood
* But there are numerous other things that stand out about our Saviour; things that we would do well to remember

**Phil. 2:8-11**

* There is only one Jesus Christ - His name is so great and mighty; His name will cause all to bow - we need to remember His name
* Remember that names often had meanings associated to them in the ancient times - Jesus means Saviour, and Immanuel, a name used in Isaiah 7:14, means God with us - both fitting of our Lord - He was God among us and He is our Saviour

**Col. 1:13-18**

* We should remember how great Christ is - remember His works; we have been delivered from darkness and into Christ's kingdom, and He redeems us through His blood; He was involved in creating all things - He is God; He is the head of the Church and has the pre-eminence

**Eph. 3:14-19**

* Christ is loving; His love passes all our understanding; it should fill us up and root us in Him; it is so large and vast - it is wide, long, deep, and high - His love surrounds us; we need to remember that love that Jesus has for us
* We should also remember Christ's exaltation

**2 Tim. 2:8**

* Jesus is risen from the dead – we do not serve or remember a dead Lord, but a live Saviour
* And not just risen, but risen to greatness

**Heb. 4:14-15**

* Christ is in heaven and is our High Priest – a High Priest who can relate to us and sympathize with us – He knows what we go through and can help each of us

**Eph. 1:19-23**

* Jesus is at our Father's right hand and reigns now; all things have been put under Him, including the church - it is His; we ought to remember that Christ is King – and the church we are a part of is His

The Lord's Supper is an act of separation

**1 Cor. 10:16-22**

* The Lord's Supper reminds us of the blood of Christ and of the body of Christ; it is something that brings us closer to Christ
* While it brings us closer to Christ, it should also separate us further from the world
* There is a divide and we cannot be partakers of both the cup of Christ and the cup of the world/demons

**2 Thess. 2:14**

* We have been called by the gospel to come to Christ, to no longer be of the world, even though we are in the world - the Lord's Supper helps us remember that we are separate - it is made possible through Jesus

**Ephesians 2:14-18**

* Through Christ we have a way to escape sin and come back to God, to be reconciled with Him; He has removed the wall of separation between us and God, so that we can instead be separated from sin; and we can remember this renewal that we have through Jesus, as we remember Him around the table

The Lord's Supper is a powerful proclamation

**1 Cor. 11:23-26**

* When we partake of the emblems around the Lord's table, we are proclaiming aloud the death of our Saviour; we are proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and was murdered on the cross because of our sins; we proclaim that Christ is risen and at our Father's right hand; and we proclaim that there is hope in Christ - that we can be redeemed through His blood - all of this is being told in our remembrance around the table
* Some other things that it proclaims:

**1 Cor. 15:1-4**

* This proclamation of Jesus death and resurrection, is a proclamation of one of the first pillars for being a disciple of Christ's; we are proclaiming vital facts of the gospel message – vital pieces of information that are required to become a follower of Christ’s – a Christian – a part of Christ’s church

**Rom. 5:8**

* We proclaim that not only did Christ die for us, but He did it while we were still His enemies - while we were still sinners; this demonstrates the great love that Jesus has for us – such love that we are reminded of around the table – a grand love that we also proclaim as we observe the Table

**1 Thess. 4:13-18**

* We proclaim that we serve a live Saviour and that He is going to come back for us - and for all who have followed Him; this is a comforting proclamation - we don't know when He will return, but He will; one day He is coming and will take us up in the air, to that grand and glorious home in heaven, which He has prepared for us – and we comfort one another with this proclamation, as we remember Christ around the Lord’s Table

**Acts 17:30-31**

* This goes hand in hand with remembering and proclaiming Christ's return; as we meet around Christ's Table, we proclaim that the judgement is sure - it is going to happen; we recognize that the only way to receive a favourable ruling, come that Judgement Day, is to be a follower of Christ – to be in His church and His family
* A resurrection will take place and so will that Judgement
* We remember and make this known as we meet around the table and partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine, and as we remember our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ
* Let us continue to partake of the emblems around the table on the first day of the week, conducting ourselves appropriately around the table, as we remember Christ and make proclamations regarding Him

Conclusion

We have seen one of the most important things to do in the church in observing the Lord’s Supper. It is an act of remembrance, an act of separation, and a powerful proclamation. It is an act that is centered on Jesus Christ. But of course, there are other acts that are good to participate in within the church – and Lord willing next week we will take a look at some of those.