

The Lord's Supper

11/11/18

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (Scripture says...)

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." IN the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

When we take the Lord's Supper, we receive a sacred symbol of the offering that Christ made for us and our union with him by faith. This Biblically ordained ritual that we partake in then is not about me or the church offering atonement to God for our sins. No. The bread and wine are symbols of Christ already having done that on our behalf. And when the church gathers to take that bread and wine we are being reminded and assured of Christ's work on our behalf. We eat in faith because by faith we have received Christ and his blessings into our lives. So we could say that when we come to the table, we come to receive again the signs of God's grace given to us in Christ. God has presented Christ to us and for us. We have received his gift by faith. And now we retell that story and are reminded to live in light of it. We could sum it up this way. Here is a meal that God has given to us, not an offering that we are giving to him. But, when the church gathers to take this meal, we do offer something to God. It is not an offering of merit, or an offering that satisfies His wrath on sin. As we have said, Christ has already done these things for us. So what is it that we offer to God when take the Supper? The answer is, thanksgiving. It is thanksgiving that is born out of hearts that have received God's grace. That is where the term, Eucharist came from. It means, thanksgiving. And when the church celebrates the Lord's Table, they are, we are, giving thanks to God for all that He has given to us in Christ. It is not a meal of atonement. The atonement has been made. It is not a ritual that gives us God's favor. No. It is a meal of thanksgiving because it is a meal that declares grace has been given and atonement has already been made.

Let us pray then together that God's blessing would be upon us and this table as we come; receiving this reminder of his grace, and giving thanks for it.

"God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, here is love, not that we loved you, but that you first loved us and sent your Son to take our sin and to take us in. You have given us life in him and caused us to rejoice in your grace. Bless us, your people now as we come and take in faith with hearts of thanksgiving for all that you are and all that you have done, through Christ. Amen."