

# Remembering the Sacrifice

Believers are to approach remembrances of Jesus' death with reverence and unity.



The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-29

February 10, 2019/ February 13, 2019

## TODAY'S TEXT

**Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-29**

*In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. <sup>18</sup> In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. <sup>19</sup> No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. <sup>20</sup> So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, <sup>21</sup> for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. <sup>22</sup> Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! <sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup> So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup> For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.*

## FIRST THOUGHTS

- How do we remember past presidents? How do we remember loved ones who have passed on?
- What's the difference between how we may remember a president versus a loved one?
- What feelings or thoughts come to mind when you remember Christ?

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Scripture notes numerous examples of memorial places or events. The Israelites gathered twelve stones from the Jordan River to set up a permanent marker of their miraculous crossing into the promised land. The annual Passover meal was a way to remember the Lord's deliverance of His people from Egypt. Jesus used the occasion of eating the Passover with His disciples to establish a new memorial, the Lord's Supper. In this week's study, we'll look at what Paul taught the believers in Corinth concerning the right way—and the wrong way—to remember Jesus' death through the Lord's Supper.

Paul continued giving practical instruction concerning church matters in chapters 11–14, especially in relation to corporate worship. Some unhelpful things were taking place during worship in the Corinthian church that were destructive and harmful. In chapter 11, Paul offered instruction for head coverings and the Lord's Supper.

Chapters 12 and 14 focus on unity and diversity in the church, specifically in the use of spiritual gifts. As in other areas, the Corinthian believers were not handling this aspect of church life appropriately, causing Paul to pen one of the most beautiful chapters in all of the New Testament, which highlighted the superiority of love (chap. 13).

This week's study focuses on the observance of the Lord's Supper. Unfortunately, the Corinthian believers were missing the mark in their practice of observing the Lord's Supper. Paul chided and instructed them in order to help them avoid judgment for sinning against one another and against Christ. As they approached the Lord's table, they were to do so with worship, with remembrance, and with examination.

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### WITH WORSHIP

> **Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22**

- How had divisions impacted the Corinthian worship services?
- What changes did the Corinthian church need to make to ensure a proper Lord's Supper?
- What do these corrections reveal about the nature of the Lord's Supper?

## WITH REMEMBRANCE

### > Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- ° How would you summarize Paul's instructions?
- ° How do you respond when you hear the words in these verses repeated during the Lord's Supper?
- ° What does the new covenant of which Paul spoke mean?

## WITH EXAMINATION

### > Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

- ° What are the consequences of receiving the Lord's Supper in "an unworthy manner" (v. 27)?
- ° How should Christians prepare to observe the Lord's Supper?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

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Believers are to approach remembrances of Jesus' death with reverence and unity.

- ° How can believers make the Lord's Supper a meaningful experience between them and God?

**Personal Challenge:** Before every Lord's Supper service, prayerfully prepare your heart to participate. Correct any attitudes of selfishness or discord toward others. During every Lord's Supper service give God your full attention as you honor His Son, Jesus Christ.

## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

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- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-26
- What are some common misunderstandings people have about spiritual gifts?
- What happens when believers don't use their spiritual gifts?

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

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**10th** - Leviticus 13-14; Acts 17 | **11th** - Leviticus 15-17; Acts 18 | **12th** - Leviticus 18-19; Psalm 13; Acts 19 | **13th** - Leviticus 20-22; Acts 20 | **14th** - Leviticus 23-24; Psalm 24; Acts 21 | **15th** - Leviticus 25; Psalm 25-26; Acts 22 | **16th** - Leviticus 26-27; Acts 23