

STUDY #12

# L The Lord's Supper

Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Checked: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is a subject which requires careful study of the Word of God. Like baptism, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is generally misunderstood; and the religious world has many substitutes for the real thing.

The only references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament are the Gospels' accounts in *Matthew 26:17-30*, *Mark 14:12-26*, *Luke 22:7-20*, and in Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians (in which he actually **rebukes** the church there for serious disorders at the Lord's table) – *I Corinthians 10:14-22* and *11:17-34*.

Prior to completing this study, carefully read each of these passages above. (References often cited from the *Book of Acts (2:46; 20:7,11)* do not refer to the Lord's Supper because they do not mention "the cup" and because in the second instance the breaking of bread was done twice in the same night. They refer to a fellowship-type meal.)

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## WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

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A. Notice The Correct Terminology.

There are only *three* Bible terms:

1. C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . *I Corinthians 10:16*
2. The L \_ \_ \_ ' \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ . *I Corinthians 10:21*
3. The L \_ \_ \_ ' \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_ . *I Corinthians 11:20*

The Bible does not mention such man-made ecclesiastical terms as "The Mass," "Holy Communion," and "Eucharist."

B. It is an O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of the church. *I Corinthians 11:2,23* – the connecting phrase "... *I delivered unto you* ..." shows this to be the case.

C. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we:

1. Do it in R \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of Christ. *I Corinthians 11:24,25*
2. Do S \_ \_ \_ the Lord's death. *I Corinthians 11:26*

From these Scriptures we conclude the Lord's Supper is a:

- SYMBOL
- SACRAMENT

(Check the correct words.)

- MEMORIAL
- MEANS OF GRACE

D. Is the observance of the Lord's Supper **commanded**, or is it a **choice**?

See: *I Corinthians 11:24,25.*

It is \_\_\_\_\_ .

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## WHAT IS THE SYMBOLISM OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

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### A. The Elements Of The Supper.

1. Unleavened \_\_\_\_\_ . *I Corinthians 11:23; Matthew 26:17,26*

2. The F \_\_\_\_\_ of the V \_\_\_\_\_ . *Matthew 26:29*

*I Corinthians* uses the term, the \_\_\_\_\_ . *I Corinthians 11:25,26*

**Note:** Nowhere does the Bible refer to "wine" as part of the Lord's Supper. Alcoholic (fermented) wine is a result of the action of yeast (leaven). Leaven is a symbol of sin — *I Corinthians 5:6,7.* Thus alcoholic wine and leavened bread would be invalid symbols of the spotless Son of God.

### B. The Symbolism Of The Bread.

The bread pictures the B \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ. *I Corinthians 11:24.*

This reminds us of the terrible suffering of our Lord, though not a bone in His body was broken. Read: *Isaiah 52:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Matthew 27:29-31; John 19:31-37.*

### C. The Symbolism Of The Cup.

The cup (grape juice) pictures the S \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ. *I Corinthians 11:25*

This reminds us that without the shedding of the blood of Christ, there could be no \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. *Hebrews 9:22* Read: *IPeter 1:18,19.*

D. The Purpose Of The Lord's Supper.

Like the ordinance of baptism, the Lord's Supper is a picture of Jesus Christ.

- BAPTISM is a symbolic picture of our Lord's D \_ \_ \_ \_ , B \_ \_ \_ \_ , and R \_ \_ \_ \_ . [See: Lesson #9.]
- When we observe the LORD'S SUPPER we set forth symbolically the L \_ \_ \_ ' \_ D \_ \_ \_ \_ until He comes. *I Corinthians 11:26*

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## WHO SHOULD OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

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- A. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (during a pre-Passover meal), who were present? *Matthew 26:20* \_\_\_\_\_  
*(It seems evident from John 13:18-30 that Judas Iscariot left the supper to betray Jesus before the Lord instituted the Lord's Supper.)*
- B. According to *I Corinthians 12:28a*, what did this group of people constitute? The C \_ \_ \_ \_ .
- C. Compare: *Matthew 26:30* with *Hebrews 2:12*. The Lord's Supper was instituted in the C \_ \_ \_ \_ .
- D. Read: *I Corinthians 11:17-21*. Here the Apostle Paul is rebuking the church at Corinth for turning the simple memorial Supper into a drunken orgy-type feast. However, note the following:  
verse 17—"ye C \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ ."  
verse 18—"ye C \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ in the C \_ \_ \_ \_ ."  
verse 20—"ye C \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_ into O \_ \_ P \_ \_ \_ ."
- E. According to *I Corinthians 1:2a*, to whom was this letter initially addressed? "the C \_ \_ \_ \_ of God which is at C \_ \_ \_ \_ ."  
*(Thus it is to the churches that the command to keep the ordinances has been given.)*
- F. **Conclusion:** The Lord's Supper is a C \_ \_ \_ \_ ordinance. It is given to the Lord's churches to observe.  
What are the 2 requirements for membership in a New Testament Baptist church? [See: Lesson #3.] \_ \_ \_ \_ and \_ \_ \_ \_ .

When our Church comes together to observe the Lord's Supper, only members of our Church who are in good standing may properly partake. We do not open the Supper to Christians in general, or even to members of other Baptist churches. Many people find this a hard doctrine (in the light of the current ecumenical climate), but remember, it is the *LORD's* Supper, not man's, and **He** issues the invitation.

**Note:** Many 'churches' open the Supper to "all who love the Lord in sincerity and truth," which sounds good, but conceivably would allow Christians with all manner of beliefs to join together. This is contrary to God's Word, for *I Corinthians 11:18,19* forbids the observance of the Lord's Supper by any church when there is D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ present.

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## HOW DO WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

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### A. How Often?

The Bible does not give a definite time to observe the Lord's Supper. *I Corinthians 11:26* simply says, "A \_ O \_ \_ \_ \_ A \_."

The pastor decides when the church should come together, and a special service is held.

### B. According to *I Corinthians 11:28*, the observance of the Supper should be preceded by solemn, personal self-E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ I O N.

**Note:** Eating "unworthily" means "in an unworthy manner" as the context shows (*verse 29*).

**Note:** The word "damnation" means "severe judgment" (even physical death) (*verse 30*).

### C. When observing the Supper the elements are distributed to the members, then all eat (or drink) together. This is because *I Corinthians 11:33* instructs us to T \_ \_ \_ \_ one for another.

### D. Following the observance of the Lord's Supper, the meeting closes with the singing of an H \_ \_ \_ . *Matthew 26:30*

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## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC “MASS”?

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This study is included here because of the vast amount of confusion regarding the meaning and benefit of the Lord’s Supper.

### A. What Are Roman Catholics Taught?

1. That the “mass” is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ Who is really present on the altar. That He is offered to God for the living and the dead by the priest.
2. That upon the words of consecration by the priest, “*Hoc est corpus meum,*” the wafer and the alcoholic wine literally change into the real flesh and blood of Christ. (This is called “*transubstantiation.*”)
3. That observance of the mass is a means of grace (part of “salvation”) whereby the person actually eats the real flesh of Jesus. That it is a mortal sin to not receive “Holy Communion” at Easter.

### B. How Did This Teaching Originate?

1. The doctrine of transubstantiation can be traced to the 9th Century writings of Paschasius Radburtus. It was declared a doctrine by Pope Innocent III in 1215 A.D. at the Council of Lateran IV.
2. It is “based” upon a literal interpretation of *Matthew 26:26-28* and *John 6:53-58*.

### C. What Does The Bible Have To Say?

1. Eating blood is forbidden by the Law – *Leviticus 17:10*. (cf. *Matthew 5:17*)
2. Idolatry is forbidden – *I John 5:21; Exodus 20:4-5*.  
(Roman Catholics are taught to worship the “Host.”)
3. Jesus spoke symbolically in *Matthew 26* because He was literally present. “*This is my body*” means “*This represents My body.*”  
A literal interpretation of this passage would also require a literal interpretation of, say, *Matthew 16:23*. Oh! Oh! (Roman Catholics are also taught that Peter was the first pope!)
4. Jesus explains *John 6:53-58* by *John 6:63*. This passage refers to a spiritual partaking of Jesus Christ, Who is **metaphorically** the “Living Bread.” *John 6:51*

5. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was sufficient and once and for all. The continual, repetitious “sacrifice” of Christ by Roman Catholic priests is a denial of the finished work of Christ. See: *John 19:30; Hebrews 10:10-12.*
6. How can a priest (a creature) make Christ (the Creator)? — *John 1:3*

**READING ASSIGNMENT:**

As given above.

**MEMORIZATION:**

Try to commit to memory: *I Corinthians 11:26.*