

LESSON 7

THE COMMUNION AND THE CHRISTIAN

Introduction: As baptism manifests or reveals the believer's past, present, and future relationship to Christ to the world, so the Lord's Supper or Communion manifests to the believer his relationship to Christ in the past (his death for us), our present need to be clean and our future fellowship with him when He comes.

A. Communion Comments:

1. It is called:
 - a. The Communion **I Corinthians 10:16**, which means, having in common, partnership, fellowship of common experience and interests i.e., "*the salvation experience.*"
 - b. The Lord's Table. **I Corinthians 10:21.**
 - c. A Memorial: **I Corinthians 11:24,25** "*this do in remembrance of me.*"
2. The Counterfeits:
 - a. Transubstantiation - supposedly the elements (bread and wine) are physically - changed into Christ's literal body and blood.
 - b. Consubstantiation - supposedly the elements are spiritually changed into his body and blood.

B. Communion Commands: **I John 5:3**

1. Christ's Command to do this. **Matthew 26:26-30.**
2. Paul's Command to do this. **I Corinthians 11:23-26.**

C. Communion Qualifications: (who is qualified to participate in the communion)

1. The Converted only **I Corinthians 10:16,17**, "*we (Christians) are one body.*" **Galatians 3:26,27**
2. The Confessed Believers. **I Corinthians 11:27-32; I John 1:9.**

D. The Communion Connotation: (significance)

1. As Baptism manifests to the World your:
 - a. New Life in Christ by the new birth and spiritual resurrection.
 - b. Present submission to God's authority.
 - c. The future promise that we have of the bodily resurrection, So...

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2. Communion is to manifest to Believer:
 - a. The Past - Christ's Work for us: (the crucifixion to pay for our sins) **I Corinthians 11:24** "*My body which broken for you.*"
Note: **Psalms 22; Isaiah 53; Matthew 26:28**, "**my blood...which is shed for many**"
Note: **Isaiah 53; John 3:15-18; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 1:18,19, 3:18.**

b. The Present - Christ's Work in us:

(1) Daily Nourishment, "take eat." **Matthew 26:26; Matthew 4:4; John 6:48** "I am the bread of life."

(2) Daily Cleansing, **Matthew 26:26** "this is my blood...for the remission of sins." Note: **I John 1:3-9; Ephesians 5:26.**

(3) Daily dying to self. **I Corinthians 10:16** "the bread which we break." Note **Luke 9:22-26**

c. The Future - Christ's Fellowship With Us: **I Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:29.**

(1) This will be an "Everlasting" Fellowship. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 14:1-3**

(2) Also it will be a "Blessed" Fellowship. **Revelation 19:7-9.**

Conclusion: Between the Lord's first Coming and His soon return at his second coming, the communion speaks of our faith in His finished work and our hope of His soon coming.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 7

1. The Lord's Supper or Communion reveals to the Christian his relationship to Christ as to our _____, _____ and future.

2. According to I Corinthians _____, Communion means having in common partnership or fellowship of common experience.

3. Three other names for the Communion are found in I Cor. 10:21. Here it is called _____; I Cor. 11:21, here it is called _____; and I Cor. 11:24&25, here it is a _____.
4. The counterfeits of the True Scriptural Communion used by Paul's churches are called _____ and _____.
5. Christians have been commanded to take the Communion by both _____ and _____.
6. The two qualifications for taking the Communion are _____ and _____.
7. The Communion reveals Christ's past work for us in which His _____ was broken for us and His _____ was shed for us.
8. The Communion reveals Christ's present work in us in that we need daily _____ and _____ and _____.
9. The Communion reveals a future relationship with Christ in that one day He will _____ with us personally face to face.
10. From the first coming to the second coming of Christ, the Communion speaks of our _____ in the Gospel and our _____ of His soon return.