



to maintain the appropriate attitude when observing the Lord's Supper. There are many places the mind can go during the Supper, and still be acceptable to the Lord. Some brethren find it helpful to open to the Gospels and read the account of our Lord's death or any of the numerous prophecies in the Psalms or prophets that foretold of His death. Some

brethren have chosen to sing songs that speak to the suffering of Christ before and during the Lord's Supper. All of these kinds of things can help create mindset conducive to remembering our Lord. One brother has summarized the points we have considered in a way that makes them easy to recall: the observance of the Lord's Supper should cause us to look *upward* and think on our communion with Christ, it should cause us to look *inward* and discern the Lord's body in our own mind, it should cause to look *outward*, knowing that we are proclaiming the Lord's death and expressing our faith in Him, and it should cause us to look *forward* to the time of His coming to receive us unto Himself.

Brethren, let us each ask ourselves what the Lord's Supper means to us. Let us remember the significance of its institution, and be thankful that the Lord, in His wisdom, has left us this memorial to cause us to remember Him.



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Faithful Sayings Issue 13.43 October 23, 2011

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

13.43

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

October 23
2011



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

Biblical Characters of Faith

 Olsen Park Church of Christ
invites you to our Fall...

Gospel Meeting

with

Curtis Pope

of Houston, Texas

November 13-18, 2011

Sunday: 9:30, 10:20, 6:00
Weeknights: 7:30



What Does the Lord's Supper Mean to You?

By Jason Garcia

In His final hours on earth, and in some of the last moments He would share with His closest followers, the Lord gave another commandment. As we read the scene of the Last Sup-



Olsen Park church of Christ

per and see the disciples around the table, having finished their meal, with their hearts heavy with sorrow, unsure of what is to come, and unsure of their own motives—we wonder if any of them had the slightest inkling of the profound event taking place. After all, there was no elaborate commencement speech; there wasn't a great crowd of mourners, or anything particularly striking about this Passover supper that would reveal its magnitude and solemn purpose. Soon the Lord would be betrayed and, knowing that His death was at hand, He instituted the memorial by which all of His faithful would remember Him—the Lord's Supper. It can be difficult for us to reach back into our minds and recall all the events surrounding the Lord's final sacrifice, but nevertheless the same command He gave His disciples on that night is the one we must hear and obey: **“Do this in remembrance of me”** (Luke 22:19). Herein we find the primary purpose of partaking in the Lord's Supper—remembering the sacrifice of the Savior. What other insight does the Scripture offer to us about this act of worship?

Paul tells us that it is a *communion*, and we often refer to the Supper in this way. But with whom or what are we communing? The answer: **“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”** (1 Cor. 10:16, KJV). In drinking the fruit of the vine and eating the bread we demonstrate our communion—our fellowship with the Lord. The language here is strong, and some have concluded that Paul is teach-

ing a very literal, physical bond takes place in eating and drinking the elements of the Lord's Supper, but this is not so. Paul is emphasizing the connection all disciples have with the Lord and demonstrate in partaking of the memorial He left us. Paul will go on to teach us that we **“do shew the Lord's death til He come”** (1 Cor. 11:26). Every time we observe the Lord's Supper, we are in fact proclaiming His death for the world. There is anticipatory language as well within this verse. How long are we to observe the Lord's Supper? Paul says, “til He come”. It's not something that is to be done once and then checked off a list, but a perpetual reminder that is to be observed continually at the set time until the Lord returns (cf. Acts 20:7). In conjunction with this point, the apostle offers another: **“whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”** (1 Cor. 11:27). If one fails to partake in a solemn and pensive state of mind, not reflecting on the death of the Lord, he then becomes guilty of the body and blood of Christ—a serious offense. Paul contrasts this attitude with one that is acceptable saying, **“let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup”** (1 Cor. 10:28). It's been established that the Lord's Supper should cause us to remember His death specifically, but Paul teaches we should examine ourselves at this time as well. If at any moment we find our thoughts wondering, we must correct it, and return our focus to the

sacrifice of our Lord. If we fail, there is another warning we should remember: **“For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body”** (1 Cor. 11:29). The very act intended to cause us to remember the suffering of Christ, and to be a time of reflection and discernment can easily turn into an act that brings damnation on us.

Given the weight, and the seriousness of such commands, can we neglect to observe the Lord's Supper and still expect to have a relationship with Christ? Can we partake of the Lord's Supper frivolously and still expect to be counted among God's faithful? No, and if our conscience accuses us of doing so then we must repent and strive