



THE TABLE OF THE LORD

**Proclaiming
the death of the Lord
until He Comes**

Revival Ministries Australia

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of the Lord until He comes**

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THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Times of restoration

In Acts 3:19-21, Peter tells us that Jesus is received in heaven *“until the times of restoration of all things”*. In these days, God is restoring **the table of the Lord** in the church. Unfortunately the table of the Lord has been neglected in many churches world-wide. Because of that a vital component in the life of the church has been missing. Believers have been robbed of the reality of meeting with Jesus in the table, which He established. Believers have been robbed of inheriting the blessings [the promises] of the new covenant.

We have not known the position that the taking of the table places us in. Jesus said that we are to remember Him in taking the bread and the cup (1Cor.11:24-25). Paul says that *“as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord till He comes”* (1Cor.11:26). This means that every time we partake of the communion table, we are not only remembering the death of the Lord and receiving anew His promises and provision in the new covenant, but we are also looking forward and preparing ourselves for His coming.

FULFILLMENT OF PASSOVER – Ex.12:1-14

Passover was an annual feast celebrated by the children of Israel in remembrance of their deliverance from Egypt.

On that night the LORD instructed Moses to tell the people to take *“a lamb for a household”* (Ex.12:3); to shed the blood of the lamb and to sprinkle some of the blood *“on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses”* (Ex.12:7); then they were to *“eat the flesh”* (v.8) of the lamb. The lamb was the main component of the sacrifice. It was to be a lamb without blemish.

- The blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from the destroyer and brought them deliverance from death.
- The flesh of the lamb strengthened them for their journey.
- All of the household were delivered; all of the household were to eat.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, He celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples. *“As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke and gave to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat, this is My body.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, ‘Drink from it all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* **Matt.26:26-28.**

Jesus became the Lamb sacrifice and the fulfilment of Passover when His blood was shed on the cross. *“For indeed Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us”* (1Cor.5:7). His instruction to His disciples was to take the bread, and to take the cup in remembrance of Him.

FULFILLMENT OF THE DAILY OFFERINGS

Ex.29:38-46

Under the Law of Moses a morning and an evening sacrifice was to be offered daily. The LORD instructed Moses, *“One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight”* **Ex.29:39.** With the lamb there was also to be a *“grain offering”* and a *“drink offering”* (v.40).

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he declared, *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (**Jn.1:29**). Jesus is the *“Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* (**Rev.13:8**). Jesus fulfilled the daily sacrifice by becoming the Lamb. He gave to us the grain offering and the drink offering to remember Him.

On the night Jesus was betrayed He took bread – a grain offering, and He took the cup – a drink offering, and said *“do this in remembrance of Me”* (**Lu.22:19**). Jesus has become the lamb offering, so we no longer have to sacrifice a lamb, but he has left us with the grain (bread) and wine.

The Lord will speak

The offering was to be made *“at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD”*; and the LORD said this is *“where I will meet with you and speak with you”* (v.42). When we come to

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commune with Him in bringing the daily offering, He fulfils His word to meet with us and speak to us. His presence comes and we can expect Him to speak to us.

- Take time to wait upon the Lord at His table
- Expect Him to speak to us
- Let us not rush the celebration of the table
- It is to be a meeting place with the Lord Himself

Sanctification

The LORD also promised that *“the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory”* (v.43). In the New Testament we come to understand that we are now the tabernacle/temple/dwelling place of God. *“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you”* 1Cor.3:16. When we meet with the Lord at His Table, we know that we have been sanctified by His blood. He will meet with His people; His glory will be present.

God will dwell with His people

Then God promises, *“I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God”* (Ex.29:45-46). These promises are aspects of the New Covenant referred to in **Jeremiah 31:34**.

On what basis will God dwell in His church and say we are His people? It is because we participate in the daily offering of the body and blood of Jesus as the Lamb sacrifice that brings us salvation. It shows we have come out of the world and are separating ourselves to God. We are sanctified by His glory as we meet with Him daily and commune with Him. We are to come to Him morning and evening acknowledging what He has done and giving thanks for our salvation.

THE ALTAR OF THE LORD

The Lord’s Table is so much more than a ceremony or a memorial meal. It is time to restore the altar of the Lord. This is the way of victory and freedom from demonic bondage brought about by people attending the table of demons and eating of the sacrifices made to demons (1Cor.10:20-21). Those who frequent the table of demons via witchdoctors or priests of the demonic, eat of the sacrifice offered

to the demon, and thus take demons into themselves, being demonised from that point on.

How much more should we partake of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, laying hold of His sacrifice and His resurrection life. This enables us to truly live and walk in the fellowship of His body and blood with our brethren in the body of Christ. This negates and breaks any demonic covenant and replaces the demonic with that which is true, holy and godly.

The cup and the bread: a communion in Christ

Paul teaches us that *“the cup of blessing that we bless ... is the communion of the blood of Christ! The bread which we break is ... the communion of the body of Christ”* (1Cor.10:16). Truly the Lord’s Table is a fellowship [the word for communion is *koinonia*] in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Through participating in the Lord’s Table, we acknowledge that *“we though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of the one bread”* (v.17).

Eating of the sacrifice

When we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we are eating of the sacrifice of His body and blood, and thereby become *“partakers of the altar”* (v.18). It is time to recognise that the table of the Lord is the significant altar that God has given us in the New Covenant. It replaces the altars of the Old Covenant and within the celebration of the Lord’s Table, there is deep covenantal fulfilment of all that God promised in the Old Covenant.

The restoration of the Lord’s Table

The restoration of the Lord’s Table is the answer to the pervasive and oppressive witchcraft that binds many people and even governments in African nations, and in other nations. There are many demonic altars and demonic covenants that have been made and that continue to bind people and even nations. The Lord’s Table is almost universally neglected and many churches and leaders have not understood the central significance of the Lord’s Table.

Jesus said, *“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink, in remembrance of Me”* (1Cor.11:25).

At the altar Jesus is lifted up

In **John 3:14** Jesus said, *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”* This is a reference to **Numbers 21:6-9**, where the children of Israel had been speaking against God, and the LORD sent *“fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people and many of the people of Israel died”* (v.6). The LORD instructed Moses, *“Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live”* (v.8).

Again in **John 12:32** Jesus said, *“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”* *“This He said, signifying by what death He would die”* (v.33). At the Lord’s Table we are remembering the death of Jesus on the cross. As we look to Him and accept what He has done for us through the shedding of His blood, we receive salvation, healing and deliverance.

THE NEW COVENANT

In the accounts of the Lord’s Table recorded for us in **Matthew**, **Mark** and **Luke**, and in Paul’s account in **1 Corinthians 11**, Jesus speaks of His blood being the blood of the *“new covenant”*. This new covenant is prophesied by Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**, and is repeated in **Hebrews 8:8-12**.

Jesus was instituting a new covenant. The old covenant with its sacrificial system of shedding the blood of bulls and goats; and of the high priest taking blood into the Holy of Holies once a year, to atone for the sins of the people, has been done away with. *“In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete”* (**Heb.8:13**).

There are four wonderful promises of the new covenant that we can receive and walk in, every time we partake of the Table of the Lord. It is important for the church to understand that our relationship with God is covenantal. God is the One who makes the covenant with us and it is sealed in the blood of Jesus. Therefore the covenant is unbreakable, because Jesus has shed His blood. We can rely upon the promises that He has made.

Every believer should know that there are four clear promises that are at the very heart of the new covenant, revealing God's will to us and making known His great love for us.

The promises of the new covenant – Heb.8:10-12

1. *“I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts*
2. *I will be their God and they shall be My people*
3. *All shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them*
4. *I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LORD'S TABLE

A perfect pattern

In **1Corinthians 11**, Paul brought serious correction to the church concerning their practice of the Lord's Supper (**v.17-22**). He said that their practice was not the Lord's Supper (**20**). Then in **verses 23-25**, Paul delivers to us what he had received from the Lord. Paul is very clear: he is teaching us exactly what he had received from the Lord. His words are very similar to those recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, but the Holy Spirit had given Paul a perfect understanding of the Lord's Table and what Jesus had intended.

As often?

According to Paul, Jesus said, *“This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me”* (**1Cor.11:25**). We are to remember Jesus, **as often as we drink the cup**. Then Paul says, *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup”* (**v.26**). How often is often? How often are we to remember Jesus and what He did through His sacrificial death on the cross? There is no limit on how often we can partake of the bread and the cup. It is meant to be an essential part of our fellowship together.

Jesus' redemptive blood

The Lord's Table causes us to focus on what Jesus did by dying on the cross, focusing on what He achieved. The Scripture says, ***“Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come ... Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption”*** Heb.9:11-12. After rising from the dead Jesus took His blood into the heavenly tabernacle.

Not in an unworthy manner

Paul warns us that we are not to eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord ***“in an unworthy manner”***; if we do we will ***“be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”*** (1Cor.11:27). ‘Unworthy’ means *irreverently*; it means *not apprehending the importance of what this table signifies*. Jesus said that we are to focus on Him. We are not to focus on our own unworthiness, but to focus on and appreciate what Jesus has done for us by going to the cross.

Let a man examine himself

Paul said, ***“Let a man examine himself”*** (v.28). The word ‘examine’ means *to test, to approve*; it has *the sense of being acceptable*. On what basis are we acceptable? On what basis can we go ahead and eat and drink? Paul said, once a man has examined himself, ***“So let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup”*** (v.28).

We are made acceptable by believing in Jesus the Messiah, and what Jesus has done for us. His blood cleanses us from all sin. We can know through faith in the word of God that we are acceptable and therefore able to eat of the bread and drink of the cup in a worthy manner.

Paul gives us a simple test in **2 Corinthians 13:5**, ***“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you.”***

This is the test: do you believe? Are you born again? Does Jesus Christ dwell in your heart through faith? If so, you are welcome at the table to eat and drink of the Lord's body and blood.

Judgement

“He who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself” (1Cor.11:29). The judgment is automatic. If you do not eat and drink in faith then you are not eating and drinking in a worthy manner. What is the judgment? *“Many are weak and sick among you and many sleep [premature death]” (v.30).*

What is ‘discerning’ the Lord’s Body?

What brings this judgment? The answer is: *“not discerning the Lord’s body” (v.29).* This word ‘discerning’ is translated elsewhere in Scripture as ‘doubting’.

Examples of this Greek word being translated ‘doubting’:

- 1) *“Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing” Acts 11:12.* Peter was being led by the Spirit into unfamiliar territory; he was to go and preach Jesus in a Gentile house. He had to go, fully believing in the vision that God had shown him, doubting nothing. If he doubted, he would have failed.
- 2) *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting; for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind” James 1:6.* The person who prays to God with doubt in his heart will not have his prayers answered. We are to pray in faith.
- 3) Through the cursing of the fig tree, Jesus was teaching powerfully on faith. He said, *“Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done” Matt.21:21.* Jesus said, *“Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive” v.22.*

Not doubting

Because we do not discern the Lord’s body, judgment comes upon us and *“for this reason many are weak and sick among you and many sleep” (1Cor.11:30).* Not discerning the Lord’s body [from the Greek] can be read as **not doubting**. The problem that the church has is that generally we neglect the celebration of the Lord’s Table, and even when we take it irregularly, we have not discerned the

Lord's body; in other words we have doubted the full and complete redemption that God gives us in Christ and through Christ.

In giving us the bread and the cup to remember Him by, Jesus is giving us an awesome key to receiving and living in the kingdom, rightly understanding the completeness of what He did by becoming the sacrificial Lamb and giving His life on the cross.

Eat and drink in faith

Every time we come to the Lord's Table we are to come in faith, not doubting the body of the Lord; not underestimating the central significance of what Jesus has done through the cross. As we repent and come obediently to remember Jesus, "*as often as you drink*", we will enter into a greater dimension of faith and the reality of Christ dwelling in our hearts and releasing His grace and enablement into our lives, to do His will, and to be prepared for His coming.

- We are to **believe wholeheartedly**, not doubting, in the finished work of Jesus through the cross.
- We are to fully believe that Jesus went to the cross as our Passover Lamb.
- **Our sins are fully remitted** and we no longer have to walk in shame, guilt or condemnation.
- Believing and receiving what Jesus did for us on the cross **brings us into eternal life**.
- But **if we are doubting**, not believing, not discerning, the body and blood of the Lord, **we will experience death**.
- We have been **made acceptable to God**, through faith in the body and blood of Jesus.
- We are to **eat and drink with reverence**, fully apprehending the importance of this remembrance meal.
- Let us come in faith, **not doubting the reality** of what Jesus did in allowing His body to be broken for us.

THE EARLY CHURCH BROKE BREAD DAILY

In Acts 2:42 we find that "*the breaking of bread*" was one of the "*first works*" that the early church "*continued steadfastly*" in.

This was a daily practice and happened in the houses, “*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart*” v.46.

The first Christians met daily in houses and broke bread daily in the houses. Even though there is some evidence that the churches later adopted the first day of the week [Sunday] as a special time to gather for the breaking of bread (**Acts 20:7**), it is indisputable that the first church broke bread daily in the homes.

Vital to the restoration of apostolic Christianity is the restoration of the **breaking of bread in the homes among believers whenever they meet.**

Of central significance

Partaking of the Lord’s Table is meant to be of central significance in the life of the church. The celebration of the Lord’s Table is of **primary importance**, being one of the first works of the church. The early church “*Continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*” **Acts 2:42**.

The Lord is restoring to His church the communion of the body and blood of Jesus. Scripturally there is no restriction on **how often** we celebrate communion. It is a time when we focus on Jesus, bringing Him into remembrance as we fellowship with Him. The breaking of bread can happen in homes or anywhere that two or three or more gather in His name (**Mt.18:20**). Some churches have added many rules to the breaking of bread; it is time to return to scriptural practice. This is vital to revival and restoration.

Remembrance of what?

We are to do something! What are we to do? We are to eat the bread and to drink from the cup and remember Jesus, that is, remembering Jesus in what He did for us by going to the cross: He “*gave Himself a ransom for all*” (**1Tim.2:6**); Hebrews says, “*When He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*” (**1:3**). We are to remember Jesus in what He did

by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Paul says that when we remember Jesus in the bread and the cup, we are proclaiming His death, but not only His death; we are proclaiming His resurrection and ascension and His coming.

UNTIL HE COMES

The table of the Lord concerns His coming

When we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, the Scripture says, we “*proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes*” (1Cor.11:26). This is the period of history that we live in, that is, the period since the Lord died on the cross until He comes.

In Remembrance of Me

The Lord’s Table is more than remembering the death of the Lord! It is remembering the Lord Himself, who died and rose again, and who is going to “*descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God*” (1Thess.4:16). There is going to be a generation “*who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord*” (v.15). When the Lord Jesus comes, “*God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus*” (v.14).

Preparing for His coming

The outworking of history is not for us all to reach to heaven, but it is to be prepared for the coming of the Lord, who is returning to the earth.

The coming of the Lord is meant to be a central and significant factor of our faith. We are saved by faith [believing] in the redemptive work that Jesus has completed by dying and rising again, but what are we saved for? We are not saved primarily to go to heaven; we are saved to be in Christ and to be witnessing to Christ and to be reflecting the life of Christ in the world, until He comes.

We are not preparing to go to heaven, but we are preparing for the coming of the Lord. This is the reality we are reminded of every time we partake of the Lord’s Supper.

*Every time we partake of the table of the Lord
we are proclaiming that Jesus died, that He rose from the dead,
and that He is coming again. Hallelujah!*

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

What about Children?

Are children welcome to eat and drink at the Table of the Lord? There are no direct instructions in the Scripture. We know that Jesus rebuked the disciples for stopping the children coming to Him. ***“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ And He laid His hands on them”*** (Matt.19:13-15).

We need to ask ourselves: can a child have saving faith? If so, what prevents them from eating and drinking.

When the people of Israel kept the first Passover in Egypt, the whole family was involved. They were all protected by the blood of the lamb, and they were all to eat of the flesh of the lamb (Ex.12). Can you imagine the elders and fathers forbidding the children to eat of the flesh of the lamb?

Must a person be baptised before they can partake of the Lord’s Table?

Again the Scripture is silent, but the normal expectation of the Scripture is that when a person believes in Jesus Christ, they are baptised immediately and then they continue in the breaking of bread, daily and from house to house (Acts 2:41-46). Many modern churches and ministries do not baptise new believers immediately and therefore they face the issue of ‘should an unbaptised person partake?’

Again if we look at the pattern of the story of the Exodus, the people who ate the flesh of the lamb and were protected by the blood, were not baptised before they ate. The Bible says they were baptised into Moses by passing through the Red Sea (1Cor.10:2).

What elements can be used?

Jesus took bread, and He took the cup. It never actually says in the New Testament that there was wine in the cup. Jesus referred to the ***“fruit of the vine”*** (Lu.22:18, Mk.14:25, Matt.26:29).

The older denominational churches generally use alcoholic wine, believing that is the Scriptural practice. Many of the newer denominations use grape juice. The Scripture does not specify the

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nature of the contents of the cup, whether it was alcoholic or non-alcoholic. Therefore we should not make an issue of the element of drink used.

Most born again and Spirit filled churches use grape juice or a coloured cordial. So what about coca cola or other cordial drinks? What about tea?

How can people in an isolated village purchase bread and grape juice when there is no shop and they do not have bread as part of their normal diet, nor do they grow grapes.

We must answer these questions practically and realise that the table of the Lord is a time to remember Him, as we eat and drink in a focused way.

If Jesus came to your house in the village and all you had to offer to Him was the staple diet that you normally ate and your normal drink, even if it was just water, would Jesus eat and drink with you? And would he refuse to eat and drink with your children?

Think about these things, and do not rely upon religious rules that you have inherited from your missionary forefathers.