



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Remembering Christ's death for us should cause us to live for Him

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
I pause, and in fresh honesty confess
The sins I've tried to hide but Christ can see;
And then, in holy hush I taste the meal
And gratefully recall His death for me. —
Gustafson

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup
(1 Cor 11:28 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 1, 2002)

Series: Faith in Action

**UNIT: The Early Church Proclaims
Faith in Christ**

NEXT WEEK

Faith in Jesus
(Acts 3:11-21)

Remembering the Covenant 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews for our understanding how the communion service is an aid to **Remembering the Covenant**. The **study's aim** is to appreciate the provisions of the new covenant for New Testament believers. The **study's application** is to think consciously about the new covenant connection in our communion services.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

We have learned a lot about God's covenants over this past quarter of study. We have seen some of the powerful signs of God's covenants and studied some of the individuals through whom God mediated His covenants promises. We have also seen (most significantly) how His covenants expand outward into the new covenant through Christ and includes an eternal and glorious kingdom. This week's text focuses on the practice of communion. This ordinance too has covenantal significance. It would be a shame to fall into the practice of taking this observance for granted, not engaging its powerful meaning afresh each time. In the practice of the Lord's Supper, we remember the Lord's provision of salvation. The Corinthian church was a troubled church, perhaps the most troubled of all the churches to which Paul wrote. In many ways, including their observance of communion, their life together manifested divisions (I Cor. 11:18), heresies (vs. 19), and disorderly conduct (vss. 20-22), so Paul's teaching in this passage relative to the practice of communion was corrective in nature. He was reminding the church of the proper way to do it and to understand it. And it remains an instructive reminder for us today. The ordinance of communion is meant to be a memorial. It is striking to notice how many times in Scripture we are exhorted to remember something (cf. Jude 1:5,17). There is value in remembering as we internalize vital truth again and again. The vital truth of communion is that it is representative of God's covenant of salvation with us. The term used for covenant here, "testament," is the same term translated "covenant" elsewhere. Communion is thus a memorial of the initiating event of God's new covenant, the atoning death of Christ. The elements of the bread and the cup bring to remembrance the death and shed blood of our Lord, by which He secured our salvation. By His death and shed blood, we are able to receive His unbreakable covenantal promises of salvation. All that we have received and will receive from God is symbolized in this simple memorial act. Communion is not a mere ritual or obligatory practice. It is a holy event in which we enter once again into an experience of God's powerful covenant with us. God is a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. When He promises to save us, it flows from His covenant-making nature. Communion calls this to our minds and hearts and causes us to reflect on it each time. Are we carefully observing the Lord's Table? Are we pondering the deep and profound promises that have been given to us? Sometimes we get focused on the logistics or the procedure, but the Lord wants us to remember "the new testament in [His] blood." We meet with the Lord afresh each time that we partake. Thus it is with great joy that we ought to engage in the communion ordinance and thereby remember the powerful and eternal covenant we are part of. Communion is a fitting capstone to a study of God's covenants.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Institution of the New Covenant (1 Cor 11:23-26)

The Elements

1 - Bread / Body

Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:48-51)

Jesus is the Word of life (I John 1:1-2)

The Word of life became flesh in the form of Jesus (John 1:14)

God offers spiritual food without cost (Isa 55:1-2)

2 - Cup / Blood

From the beginning God stated that the blood was for the forgiveness of sins (Lev 17:11)

Only God's blood is powerful enough to cover ALL sins (Heb 9:13-15)

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb 9:22)

Reason for observance

1 - Remembrance

So it can be taught to future generations (Exod 12:26-27)

So that we don't forget God's blessings (Ps 105:3-5)

So that we can be comforted (Ps 119:52)

So that we will understand God's Word (Mark 8:17-18)

2 - Proclaiming Jesus' death

Proclaiming Jesus' death for the ungodly (Rom 5:6)

Proclaiming Jesus' death for the sins of all (Rom 6:10)

Proclaiming Jesus' death so that we live for Jesus (2 Cor 5:15)

Proclaiming Jesus' death and His intercession for us (Rom 8:34)

3 - Observance should occur until Jesus' return

Observe until we are judged on all that we do based on our motives (1 Cor 4:5)

Our job while we are waiting is to continue to do His will (I John 2:28)

Observing and Remembering the New Covenant (1 Cor 11:27-34)

Observing and Remembering in an Unworthily Manner (27)

Unworthy because of wrong reasons or right motives (Matt 22:11-14)

Unworthy because of trying to serve two masters (1 Cor 10:21)

Guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord (27)

It is explained later in the Bible as bringing on judgement (1 Cor 11:29)

Guilty because of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matt 12:31)

Guilty because of rebelling against Jesus and becoming His enemy (Isa 63:10)

Examining ourselves (28)

God does the testing and examining (Ps 26:2)

Means giving careful thought to what we are doing (Hag 1:5)

It means verifying our faith (2 Cor 13:5)

It means being at peace and clear conscience with God (I John 3:19-20)

Discerning the Lord's body (29-30)

To discern, we must be in a right fellowship with God (Rom 3:10-11)

To not discern is to doubt and participate not from faith (Rom 14:23)

To not discern is to deserve punishment for trampling under foot Jesus' work (Heb 10:29)

Disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world (32)

God's discipline brings eventual relief and salvation (Ps 94:12-13)

God disciplines those He loves (Prov 3:11-12)

Discipline that proves we are God's children (Heb 12:7-8)

Resulting commands to the Corinthians to resolve their problems (33-34)

1 - Wait for all the Members before observance

When Christians are together and on one accord, there is power (Acts 4:31-32)

Assembling together provides a vehicle for encouragement (Heb 10:25)

2 - Eat at home to satisfy hunger and thirst

To eat, we must work for our food (2 Thess 3:10)

Never be a burden on others (2 Thess 3:7-8)