**A Christian Memorial**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25**

*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

**Introduction**

It has been the way of the Lord to give memorials to His people to remind them of promises He has made or great events He wants them to remember. In the Old Testament He gave the rainbow to remind man that He promises never to destroy the world with water as He once did. He gave the Sabbath to the Jews to help them remember that it was through His mercy and strength that they were led out of Egypt and slavery. In the New Testament we have the Lord’s Supper given as a memorial of the great sacrifice of God and of Christ for our salvation.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to help us understand the teaching of the Scriptures concerning this beautiful and significant service.

**I. Scriptural names were given for this memorial.**

A. The “Lord’s supper,” meaning “sacred feast of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 11:20).

B. “Communion,” meaning “joint participation, fellowship” (1 Corinthians 10:16).

**II. The Communion looks four ways.**

A. Backward – “This do in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19).

B. Inward – “Let a man examine himself” (1 Corinthians 11:28).

C. Outward – “Ye do shew the Lord’s death” (1 Corinthians 11:26).

D. Forward – “Till he come” (1 Corinthians 11:26).

**III. The day of observance is the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).**

**IV. It is to be observed congregationally (1 Corinthians 11:33, Acts 20:7).**

**V. There are certain elements in the Lord’s Supper.**

A. Bread – “Jesus took bread” (Matthew 26:26).

1. Bread was appropriate for communion (John 6:51).

2. One loaf was used (**artos** – “a loaf”)(Luke 22:19).

3. The bread was unleavened (Matthew 26:17, 26; Exodus 12:15).

B. Fruit of the vine (Mark 14:23,24)

1. Fruit of the vine was appropriate (John 15:1-5, Genesis 49:11 – “blood of grapes”).

2. The cup containing the fruit of the vine in the communion is called the “cup of blessing” (1 Corinthians 10:16, Isaiah 65:8). Jesus took a literal cup when introducing the Lord’s Supper to the apostles (Matthew 26:27 – “And he took the cup”). The word “cup” is from the Greek **poterion** – “a drinking vessel” (Thayer, p.533).

**VI. The elements in the communion have meaning.**

A. Of the bread, Jesus said, “This is my body” (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24)

B. Of the fruit of the vine, Jesus said, “This is my blood” (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24).

C. Of the cup, Jesus said, “This cup is the New Testament” (Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25).

D. “Is” is a copula, a connecting word, which means “represents” in the preceding statements.

**VII. Jesus set the example before His apostles when He instituted the communion and said, “This do in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24, 25).**

**VIII. A proper attitude is important when one partakes of the Lord’s Supper (John 4:23, 24; 1 Corinthians 11:26-30).**

**Conclusion**

The communion service is a simple but beautiful and fitting memorial of Jesus our Lord. He introduced it to the apostles exactly as He wanted it kept. The Apostle Paul was not present that night, but when he wrote to the Corinthians, he told them to keep it as he delivered it to them, for he had received it from the Lord. Today, the faithful still keep it as it is recorded.

Sermon by Paul Nichols