

“The Lord’s Supper”

I Cor. 11:23-27

7-30-17 Sun AM

There is an acrostic for the word Baptist from which we get what is called the “*Baptist Distinctives*.”

Bible- The only rule for faith and practice.

Autonomy of the local church

Priesthood of believers

Two Ordinances of the local church

Individual soul liberty and responsibility.

Separation of church and state

Two officers of the local church.

Saved church membership.

Further explanation is on the table as you go out. This morning we focus on one of those Distinctives, the Lord’s Supper.

The account happened the same night the Lord was betrayed and he instituted the Lord’s Supper [vs. 23-24].

Jesus had celebrated the Passover meal [Seder] with His disciples in the upper room. Let me share some things about the Passover meal.

The Jews celebrated the Passover meal as a memorial commemorating Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt.

This commemoration meal was observed with 4 cups, a recount of the Passover story, singing of Psalm 113-118, eating herbs, unleavened bread and a sacrificial roasted lamb.

“Cup” is mentioned five times in vs. 25-28. This is the third cup which Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper (vs. 25-28).

These four cups stand for the four “I wills” that are recorded in:

Exodus 6:6-7, "Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: (7) And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

Based on the four promises in the passage above we have the four cups of the Passover feast. Each of these cups depicted a spiritual theme for Israel and spoke spiritual lessons for the Christian.

1. The Cup of Sanctification – based on God’s statement, “I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians”

God set the nation of Israel apart from other nations. As Christians we are set apart from the world for His purposes and are to be consecrated to Him.

2. The Cup of Judgment or Deliverance- based on God’s statement, “I will rid you out of their bondage”

The Jews would recite the ten plaques. This cup spoke of God's certain judgment.

As Christians, Jesus bore God's divine wrath against the sinner in His own body on the cross, that we might have life by believing in Christ.

3. The Cup of Redemption or Praise – based on God’s statement, “I will redeem you with an stretched arm”

The Jews would praise God for His redemption from the bondage of Egypt, His covenant, and Laws.

As Christians we have been delivered forever from the bondage of sin by the blood of the Lamb of God, we have a better covenant and the indwelling of the Spirit.

Hebrews 9:12, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

4. The Cup Elijah or Restoration – based on God’s statement, “I will take you to me for a people”

The Jews would set a chair at the table for Elijah who they expected to come before the Messiah, and the Messiah would restore all things.

What they did not believe was that John the Baptist came in the power and Spirit of Elijah [Luke 1:17; Matt. 11:14; 17:12-13].

These four cups speak of God separating believers to Himself, Jesus bore our wrath, God deserves the believers praise, and God kept His promise by sending John the Baptist.

Judas departed after the second cup because he had no part in blood redemption. Jesus did not take the fourth cup because Elijah had come.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper after the third cup. These 4 Passover cups were fulfilled in the person and work of Christ as our Passover!

Con: In Relationship to the Local Church, two very important principles need to be noted in regards to these two ordinances...

1. Neither baptism nor the Lord’s Supper is a means of grace (sacrament). Neither save but show your identification with Jesus.

2. The Local Church itself is to be the administrator of these ordinances. It is a church ordinance!