The Blessing, Glory, and Power of Communion: The Breaking of Bread

Objective: When a believer partakes of the Lord’s Supper, he should do so with a full understanding of its significance. While Communion has become only a religious observance, it has a much deeper meaning than that.

1. **The precursor to The Lord’s Supper**
2. Genesis 14:17–24

*And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley), after his return from the [a]defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him [b]a tithe of all. Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the [c]persons, and take the goods for yourself.” But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich’— except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.”*

The encounter of Abram with Melchizedek and the king of Sodom; kings of two cities with opposite destinies. Both kings offered gifts to Abram. Abram refused the king of Sodom and received the gift of Melchizedek. Melchizedek gave bread and wine to Abram and received tithes from him.

1. Hebrews 7:1–7

*This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. Hebrews 7:1-7*

The scripture describes the priesthood of Melchizedek and compares it to the son of God—a continuing priesthood, contrasted to the Levitical priesthood, which was only temporary.

1. **Institution of The Lord’s Supper**
2. Matthew 26:26–29—Description of the Lord’s Supper

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” Matthew 26:26-29*

1. The same emblems offered as those offered by Melchizedek to Abram, thereby reinstating the Eternal Priesthood and instituting the New Covenant
   1. The Bread – The Body of Christ
   2. The Wine – The Blood of the New Covenant
2. **Seven Works of The Lord’s Table**
3. **It Proclaims -** 1 Cor. 11:26—Partaking in Communion proclaims to the world—both the seen and the unseen—the Lord’s death until He comes.
4. **It Remembers**
5. 1 Cor. 11:25—Communion looks back to the death of Jesus and establishment of the New Covenant
6. Rom. 8:32—Continuing reminder that Christ died for our sins, the guarantee of our total inheritance
7. **It Anticipates -** 1 Cor. 11:26—Look forward to the coming of Christ again. “No past but the cross; no future but the coming.”
8. **It Recognizes**
9. 1 Cor. 11:29—Looking below the surface to the reality of the Communion: the bread is the Body of the Lord—the people are the Living Body of the Lord.
10. As such, we are to discern them rightly and treat them as fellow members of Christ’s Body.
11. **We Partake**
12. 1 Cor. 10:17—We are partakers of the only source of Life: the body and the blood of the Lord.
13. John 6:53–58—Unless we partake of this flesh and blood, there is no life in us. The result of partaking rightly is eternal life. God is the life source of the Son; the Son is the life source of the believer. When we partake of these emblems, we partake of the source of life.
14. **It Unites**
15. 1 Cor. 10:16—One bread, one body. The wine and the bread are a sharing with all believers who are part of the Body of Christ.
16. Sharing Communion unites all believers from all ages in the death and resurrection of Christ.
17. **It Separates**
18. 1 Cor. 10:20–21—Believers are set apart. No fellowship with demons nor the things offered to demons.
19. Deut. 7:26—You cannot share the things of Satan and the things of the Lord. Such things as the horoscope, the signs of the zodiac, etc. are to have no place in a believer’s home or life
20. Ezra 4:1–3—Those who did not worship the true God had nothing in common with those who did.
21. **The Blessing of Communion**
    1. It Heals.
       1. According to Isaiah 53:4-5 – Jesus’ sacrifice covered every area of man’s life.
          1. Sin
          2. Mental distress
          3. Fear
          4. Sickness
          5. Disease
       2. Jesus purchased your complete healing on the cross of Calvary.
    2. It Delivers.
       1. Exodus 12:11 - reveals that the children of Israel were to be dressed, prepared, and consume the Lord’s Passover – because they were about to be delivered from the power of Egypt.
       2. By consuming the Body and Blood of the Lord in complete faith, we can be delivered from the power of the adversary.
22. **How do we partake in Communion?**
    1. **Communion is an act of worship.** When we come to the table of the Lord, we must come humbly before him.
    2. **Communion should be received often.** While many churches, including ours, have Communion once a month – the Bible instructs us to do it regularly.
    3. **Examine yourself before you receive Communion.** Take the time to examine what’s in your heart – whether it is jealousy, envy, unforgiveness, unbelief, or unconfessed sin. Ask for forgiveness according to 1 John 1:9 – the Father is faithful to forgive us and purge us from all unrighteousness.
    4. **Break the Bread and eat it.** Just as Jesus’ body was broken for us, so we break the bread as a reminder. We receive the broken body Christ so that our broken bodies can be healed.
    5. **Bless the Cup and drink it.** The Word teaches us that the cup contains the blood of the New Covenant. The Blood of Jesus heals us, redeems us, and delivers us. His blood has power.
    6. **Close your time with worship and thanksgiving.**