

## Understanding the Lord's Supper – Part 1 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

### Introduction:

1. The Lord's Supper is designed to be a blessing to the corporate body of believers as they come together and focus on their Savior and His accomplishments.
2. The church at Corinth had turned it into a carnival. They were bringing great reproach to Christ by making a mockery out of the Lord's Supper.
3. The Corinthians' corporate behavior in the local assembly contradicted the very essence of what the cross is supposed to represent.
  - They were having church dinners before observing the Lord's Supper.
  - The rich were shaming the poor. The rich were flaunting their wealth by being gluttons and even getting drunk in the local assembly.
  - There were divisions within the assembly, creating contention and strife.
4. Paul said, "...shall I praise you in this? I praise you not." Beginning in verse 23, Paul will bring some much needed teaching, rebuke, and warning to this carnal church.
5. This is a wonderful text in which Paul explains the meaning of the Lord's Supper to the church, the body of Christ. This is the only passage where Paul deals with the details of the Lord's Supper and its meaning.
6. The Lord's Supper is not a magical, mystical, spooky religious ritual that many religions have made it today. Every believer must understand the true meaning of the Lord's Supper. Let's examine four truths from this text.

### The Lord's Supper was delivered from Paul to the church. vs. 23

1. Paul makes it clear that he received directly from the Lord what he is about to share with the church. vs. 23
2. Paul would not have been present when Christ met with the twelve in the upper room and observed what is commonly known as "the last supper."
  - This took place the night Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ and the night before Christ died on the cross.
  - Jesus enjoyed the Passover meal with the twelve (**Matthew 26:19**) and as they were eating, Jesus took the bread and juice and blessed it (**Matthew 26:26**).
  - Paul, of course, was not there; so, Christ gives Paul direct revelation concerning this event and Paul in turn gives it to the predominantly Gentile church.
3. Why was Israel given this observance (through the twelve) **and** the Gentile church (through Paul)? We know that most of Israel's laws, commandments, and observances were not required of the Gentile believers. **Acts 15:19; Colossians 2:16**
4. The reason why the Lord's Supper was given to both Israel and the body of Christ is because of what it represents. It represents the cross work of Jesus Christ at Calvary.
  - The **prophetic** program calls for an earthly kingdom to be given to Israel in which all their sins will be forgiven. **Hebrews 8:8-12; Acts 3:19-21**

- The **mystery** program today calls for a heavenly body of believers (body of Christ) who are also forgiven of all their sins (**Ephesians 1:7**) and blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**).
  - Whether it's Israel in the future, or the body of Christ today, all of God's blessings flow to people directly through the cross work of Jesus Christ.
5. Israel will receive all of their blessings because of the cross and we receive all of our blessings today because of the cross; therefore, we both share this memorial which rejoices in the finished work of our Savior.