October 23, 2016 “The Lord’s Supper” I Corinthians 11: 17-34

Within the Christian church there are two ordinances which we instituted by and participated in by our Lord. One is Baptism. As you will remember Jesus Himself was baptized in water. Peter, along with the disciples, baptized 3,000 on the day of Pentecost and in the great commission Jesus gives us the command to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28: 19)

The second ordinance was instituted by Him in the upper room where He broke the bread and took the cup saying, “do this in remembrance of Me.” (Luke 22: 19) Paul continues this admonition in I Corinthians 11: 24-25.

Both of these ordinances are not suggestions to us, rather they are specific commands by God to those who would follow after Him in obedience. They are also not to be observed as kind of a last thought but rather with solemn reverence.

Next week, Lord willing, we too, will be observing or celebrating the Lord’s Supper next week Sunday and I wanted to give you as much instruction as I can regarding the Lord’s Supper so that we would come together next week with an earnest knowledge of what is detailed and incorporated into the Lord’s Supper.

1. Mark 14: 12-21
   1. Passover meal
      1. What was the Passover?
         1. Meal that was observed by the Jews recognizing God as their deliverer out of bondage
         2. Still observed by Jews today
      2. Commemorated the last plague God placed upon Egypt
         1. The firstborn was to die in all households
         2. Israelites were told to take a Lamb
         3. Slay it and take the blood
         4. Apply the blood to the lintel and door posts
         5. When angel of death would pass by every household where the blood was applied
         6. Would be passed over.
   2. Mark 14: 22-25
      1. Jesus changes or transformed the Passover feast into the Supper to remember His sacrificial death for the sins of those who believe and accept His sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins.
      2. “which is poured out for many” (Vs 24)
   3. All four Gospels and I Corinthians 11 make reference to this world changing event
   4. Acts 2: 41-42
      1. Devoted themselves to 4 things
         1. Apostles teaching
         2. Fellowship (quite often a meal together)
         3. Breaking of bread
         4. Prayer
      2. Many Bible scholars believe the early Church celebrated the Lord’s Supper with every meal they ate together
      3. Note Acts 20: 7 at Troas
2. What happened in Corinth?
   1. I Corinthians 11: 17-22
      1. Fellowship meal turned into a “me first” situation
      2. No longer was it a “sharing time” but rather it turned into sort of a pagan ritual perhaps copied from the pagan culture???
         1. Look at the descriptions given
            1. Divisions

Fighting over who is right and who is wrong

I Corinthians 1: 11-13

* + - * 1. One person eats before the others making sure there is nothing left for those who come later
        2. Another person gets drunk
      1. This celebration was an absolute mockery of sacrifice of Christ when they themselves were exuding selfishness
         1. Directly opposite of Hebrews 10: 24-25
      2. What causes these things to happen?
         1. I Corinthians 3: 1-9
  1. When we gather together we do so to encourage and stimulate one another through testimony, teachings and brotherly kindnesses. So that we may all “attain a unity of the faith”
  2. Ephesians 4: 11-13
  3. I Thessalonians 1: 2-7

Next week we will go into part two of this chapter. Please study verses 23-34 as you prepare your hearts for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Behold the wondrous mystery……….

“The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you,

And be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,

And give you peace.”’