

MICHIGAN MISSIONARY BAPTIST BANNER

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ORDER AND MEANING OF LORD'S SUPPER

Scripture references: I. Cor. II:17-34; Luke 22:14-20

(This article by Bro. C. C. Bishop whom I have known for years is sound and Biblical)

Perhaps there is not a more misunderstood teaching among professed Christians than that of the Lord's Supper. So many seem to think of it merely as a social affair, and deem its meaning lightly, but we shall see from this lesson that God's table is to be taken seriously.

I. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A LOCAL CHURCH AFFAIR. I. Cor. II:17-18. While perhaps a few churches in our ranks may invite members of churches of like faith and practice to take the supper with them, and while we do not deem it such a great heresy, it is a dangerous tendency. Here Paul is talking directly to a church, verse 23 tells us the ordinance was delivered to the church. Space does not permit a full development of this subject, but let us reason on this fashion. One church does not invite the members of a neighboring church to vote in their business meeting, nor does she exercise discipline over them for heresy or misconduct. One church does not baptize people into another church but into her own fellowship. By proper transfer of membership, one church accepts the baptism of another church of like faith and practice. Even so by the same procedure he may observe the supper. Since the church would not know whether the visitor, though he claims the same faith, is in proper relationship with his church, the church is on the safe side to administer the supper to her own members only.

II. RESTRICTIONS AT THE TABLE. I cor. II: 17-20. There were divisions, even heresies, in the church at Corinth which forbade their eating the supper. This is no justification for a church to endlessly refuse to observe the Lord's Supper, but rather the restriction is against taking it with the wrong doers.

(1) The supper is restricted to baptized believers. Acts 2:41-42. While Baptists are assailed for their close communion, our real closeness is on baptism. Since other so-called churches are of human origin and preach heresy, we believe they have no authority to baptize. Hence, their members are unbaptized and have no right to eat the supper with us.

(2) Heresies are forbidden. Verses 19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 2. Jno. 9-II; Heb. 13:10.

(3) Immorality is forbidden. I. Cor. 5:11. III. THE SUPPER IS NOT A SOCIAL AFFAIR. I. Cor. II:21-22. Seemingly some were eating to satisfy their hunger, some their thirst. Apparently others just made the most of it even to getting drunk. Paul rebukes this and calls for order around the table. If the supper were a social affair, we feel sure the Lord would have had his mother, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, along with other close friends, on hand for the first supper.

IV. ELEMENTS USED AND THEIR MEANING. I. Cor. II:23-26. The elements are unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, Luke 22:18-20. Notice the word wine is not used in connection with the Lord's Supper. However, the New Testament word for wine generally speaking merely means grape juice, unless qualified to show that it was fermented. Whether it were fermented or unfermented, is of little consequence. It is a type of the blood of Christ, which was just as effective when it was shed as now. Grapes must be crushed to

obtain the juice, showing the crushing or (suffering of Christ) to shed His blood. The full (or overflowing cup) represents joy, Psalms 23. The cup being emptied represents suffering, Matt. 26:39. Christ referred to himself as the bread of life, Jno. 6. Hence the broken bread is a type of the broken body. The purpose of the supper is a memorial to commemorate the death and suffering of Christ for our sins, as well as His death becoming effective in saving our souls. It also looks forward to His coming - "Till I come."

V. EATING AND DRINKING UNWORTHILY, I. Cor. II:27-28: "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself." The word is not "worthy", for none are worthy, but refers to the manner, or purpose, in which we eat it. The church is to have no other motive but to show the true resemblance in the Lord's body. No person becomes so important that God's laws can be cast aside.

VI. JUDGMENTS FOR WRONG EATING. Verses 30-34. The punishment refers to the body rather than the soul. It was visible among them in weakness, sickness and physical death. No doubt the souls were saved, but God chastened them for yielding their bodies to sin. Some Bible characters who suffered physical death for disobedience were Moses, the Prophet of I. Kgs. 13, Annias and Sapphira. The fact God visited these violations of His supper with even physical death shows that God does not intend for people to trifle with His ordinances. Even in this age of looseness around the Lord's table, men should take notice of this. While physical death may not come, it brings death to a church as far as her influence for truth is seen.

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NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

FRIENDSHIP-FLINT. The ladies auxiliary has
 painted the interior of the church and it is
 a job well done. The front of the church
 was remodeled making a great improvement.
 The revival with Bro. E.E. Bone doing the
 preaching stirred the church and some addit-
 ions made. I heard that Bone preach and he
 had meat to bring you. Work looks fine there.
 at Flint. Hear Bro. Lawson not been well
 know what that means. More health to you Bro.
 pastor.

BUCHANAN-BUCHANAN. Missionary Kinney held a
 revival for the church. Weather was bad and
 this hindered but good done. Bro. Owens and
 Kinney supplied there recently for Bro. Gean
 and there were two additions recently. We
 are all deeply concerned over the serious
 illness of Sis. Gean. Bro. Gean needs our
 prayers in these trying hours and may need
 some financial help. Let us do our best for
 our brother. My prayers are for them.

NEW HOPE-BENTON HARBOR. Bro. Jaco reports
 they have preachers to spare over there. If
 you need one call him. Bro. Fraser been do-
 ing some preaching. There maybe at opening
 for our work at Colma Mich. Good place for
 their preachers to work. They have had two

by letter and two conversions. One more by
 letter and baptism. Mission offerings and
 interest increased. They owe by \$0.00 on
 their lots. Lord is blessing them. He wants
 us to go all out in the work in this state.
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST-KALAMAZOO. The
 church was host to a great Thanksgiving ser-
 vice. Bone and this editor preached. Great
 big turkey dinner with all the fixings and
 fine program put on by the church. Bro. Wall-
 ace led one prayer meeting. Bro. Fraser was
 preacher one time Had some 3 additions in
 Dec. by letter one for baptism. Grandmother
 Smith fell and broke her hip but is doing
 fairly well in the hospital. Bro. Kinney
 recently met Bro Roy a preacher from South
 Bend. Our missionary Kinney is on the go
 for the Lord. The church has 37 members now.
 Bro. Owens preaches for us in his absnce.
NEW HOME-LANSING. The church is going along
 fine to not have much of a pastor. We have
 had 7 additions by letter and 2 approved
 for baptism. We have a new church sign in
 front of the church lit up at night. It is
 a great improvement. This was made possible
 by Brethern Prince and Tucker. We have had
 many visitors in the services and good crowds
 at preaching. The church suprised the pastor
 one Wed. night with gifts for Christmas.
 We have a regular weekly bulletin now. The
 church is much encouraged. Different famil-
 ies are doing the janitor work.

NEXT FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Remember Jan. 30th all cars will head for
 Friendship Church at Flint for the meeting.

WALKER SENDS GREETINGS

Elder L. S. Walker of Chickasaw a member of
 the Missionary Comm. of the N.A.B.A. sends
 greetings to the pastors of the state work
 and wishes us much success. Thanks.

OVER THE TOP WITH BURGESS

Bro. Burgess as Sec.-Treas. of our foreign and interstate mission work has set a goal of 100,000 for the year that ends Feb. 28th. Let all our churches take an accounting of what we have done for missions last few months. Let us send funds NOW to make this goal a reality. Bro. Burgess has done a real task in leading our people but he will fail without our whole hearted support. The Churches in Michigan have the utmost confidence in his leadership and Christian character. If we all cooperate we can operate for the glory of Christ. He has sent his warm love and greeting to me to the pastors and churches that make up our state association. A little bit from every church will swell the total for the year until she will bust the 100,000 goal at the seams. TAKE AN OFFERING FOR MISSIONS NOW. Send it to W.J. Burgess, 824 Main St, Little Rock Ark.

STATE MISSIONS

Let me urge the churches to send your state Mission offerings to Bro. Tom Prince, 3012 Creston Ave, Lansing so that he can report what is being done. Bro. Kinney is paid for work done with a small balance left over. He is doing a great job with the limited time he can work. How the work needs a full time interstate man to cover not only here but an opening or two in the edge of Indiana We are asking the North American Baptist Association to return Bro. Kinney to the field that is open now. Tomorrow may be too late.

NATIONAL MEETING

Make plans now to attend the national meeting in March at Amarillo Texas in Texas. Each church should be represented there.

FOR OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

A father took his son with him to visit the little country church he had attended when a boy. On the way he told his son how he used to ring the bell to bring the people to God's house to worship Him. When they reached the country church, they found it locked and deserted. It was Sunday morning. Looking through a window, they saw the long bell rope. The little boy longed to hear the bell. He said eagerly to his father, "O father, ring the bell. Ring the bell." They slipped in and the father rang the old church bell. The bell had been silent for a long time. People no longer came to the little church to worship God. When the father rang the bell, the people near and far heard it. They came to the church to see what was the matter. The father told them how much he loved the little church. He told them how much the church had meant to him when he was a boy. He said that he was sorry to see the church closed and neglected. The people listened. They, too, were sorry that the church was closed. With the father's help, they put the old church in order, and opened it again for worship and service.

When you are grown you will find the church has meant a great deal to you in your childhood. It has meant so much to me.
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HAPPY NEW YEAR BOYS AND GIRLS

Resolved that I will not miss Sunday School the coming year unless so sick I can not get out of bed and go.

THOUGHT SNACKS

There are lots of bad actors who are not on the stage. Even thread-bare folks can be as fine as silk. MY whole family in church this year.

POET'S CORNER

I'VE A MANSION OVER YONDER

By Walter. E. Isenhour

"Twill be grand to have a mansion
With the noble and the good,
Where there'll be sweet peace and union
And all things be as they should,
With no evil there to hinder;
And to bring discord and woe,
For there'll be no tempter yonder
Where God's holy people go.

I've a mansion over yonder
In the homeland of the soul,
In that city bright and blessed
Where the streets are shining gold;
Where sweet angels dwell forever
And God's glory is the light
Where there is no death nor sorrow
And no sin can ever bright.

Hallelujah I am going
To my mansion in the sky,
When my labor here is ended
And I tell the world goodbye;
For with Jesus I'll be living
As eternal ages roll,
Happy with the saints of glory
In the homeland of the soul.

Here we find the poor and needy
And they cannot pay their rent,
But for mansions over yonder
We shall never pay a cent;
For the Lord gives all things freely,
Making rich His children there,
Who will praise Him for His blessings
Which they shall forever share.

HAPPY NEW YEAR READERS

BRING ENTIRE FAMILY TO EVERY SERVICE.