

DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY

The way we partake of the Lord's Supper has an impact on our spiritual welfare. The Corinthians did not eat and drink in a worthy manner. *"For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep"* (1 Cor. 11.30). There were some who were spiritually weak. Some were spiritually sick. There were even those who were dead spiritually. The cause for their condition is stated in the previous verse. They were *"not discerning the Lord's body."*

The idea of "discerning" is to treat something as special. The sacrifice of Jesus was not ordinary. The blood that stained the sands of Calvary was not common. Jesus is the only way to access the Father (John 14.6). The blood of Jesus is the only agent that can wash us clean from our past sins (1 John 1.7). Remembering the death of Jesus is to express a deep appreciation for what He gave up for us. It is to remember how much we are loved (Rom. 5.8).

The Corinthians were not remembering the death of Jesus. They were not treating the body and blood of Jesus as special. During the worship of the church, the Corinthians were eating a common meal and calling it the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11.17-22). In the process, they were treating the death of Christ as a common thing. By failing to take seriously the death of Jesus as the very sacrifice that saved them from their sins, they were struggling spiritually.

How can we make sure that we do not abuse the Lord's Supper? It is more than just using the right emblems. It is about having the right mindset where we consider the sacrifice of Christ as special. How do we get in the right frame of mind? In 1 Corinthians 11.28, we are told to *"let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."* Self-examination, in this context, is not about reflecting on the past week to consider how we have lived. We examine ourselves to see if we are partaking of the Lord's Supper in the right frame of mind.

The Lord's Supper was not put in place so that Jesus can make sure that we don't forget Him. It was put in place so that we can always remember how much we are loved and how far God was willing to go for us. May we never remember casually! CLP

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST	JUNE 4, 2023
2424 McCARRAN ST.	
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031	
(702) 642-3141	WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruittlc@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Northside Church of Christ, Las Vegas

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

June 4, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE SPIRIT IS KNOWLEDGE

Through the revelation of the Holy Spirit I learn that I am a child of God (Rom. 8.16). This revelation tells me what I need to do to become a child of God. It shows me the conditions to be saved and to remain saved (1 Cor. 15.1,2). Through revelation I learn that I abide in the Father (1 John 4.13). When I read the Bible I learn about the purity and holiness required to enjoy a fellowship with God and discover if I possess those qualities (1 John 1.5-7).

Just before Jesus was put to death, He promised to send the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the promise of Jesus was fulfilled as the apostles were baptized by the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues *"as the Spirit gave them utterance"* (Acts 2.1-4). As these men were guided by the Holy Spirit, they wrote the message given to them in what we now have as the New Testament (1 Thess. 4.8). What the Spirit has revealed to the apostles and prophets is valuable knowledge to us.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God shows how great the gap is between our ways and his way, our thoughts and His thoughts (Isa. 55.8,9). Something had to bridge that gap allowing us to know the mind of God. That something was the Holy Spirit who has revealed God to us (1 Cor. 2.10-12). The promise to send the Holy Spirit who would *"teach you all things"* (John 14.26), and *"guide you into all truth"* (John 16.13) has been fulfilled. CLP

THE WEeping SON

LUKE 15:21

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the background of the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus represents three groups of people.
2. The parable of the prodigal son centers around the compassionate father. [READ LUKE 15.17-24]
3. Setting the stage. (Luke 15.17-19)

I. WHAT THE FATHER WAS WILLING TO GIVE

- A. The father gave his son his attention.
 1. **LUKE 15.20:** *“But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him.”* Saw (orao): To know from experience.
 2. Your heavenly Father gives you His attention. (Ps. 8.3,4)
- B. The father gave his son his compassion.
 1. **LUKE 15.20:** *“and had compassion”* (Splanchnizomai) “spleen.” The place deep feelings are felt. Passive voice.
 2. Your heavenly Father has feelings for you. (1 Pet. 5.7)
- C. The father gave his son his affection.
 1. **LUKE 15.20:** *“ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”*
 2. God loves each one of His people personally.
- D. The father gave his son his reconciliation.
 1. **LUKE 15.21-24:** *“Father...”* His father interrupted him to celebrate son is coming home. (Luke 15.7,10)
 2. Your sins destroyed your relationship with God. But He is willing to accept you back. (Isa. 59.2; Eph. 2.12,13)

II. WHAT DOES GOD OFFER YOU?

- A. He offers to forgive you completely.
 1. The son felt remorse for his past. (Luke 15.21)
 2. How did the father respond? (Luke 15.22)
 3. God will never hold your past sins against you. He treats you as if you have never sinned. (Heb. 10.2,17)
- B. God will never label you.
 1. The son did not deserve to be called a son. But the father called him his son. (Luke 15.21,22).
 2. God will never label you by your past but gives you a new name. (1 Cor. 6.9-11; Rev. 22.4)

CONCLUSION: Though we make a mess of our lives by our sin, God will always accept us back when we turn to Him.

THE URGENCY OF THE GOSPEL

Toward the beginning of the sixth chapter of his second epistle to Corinth, Paul writes, *“For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* Consider these two critical points.

In the context of the epistle, Paul writes about the gospel age and the salvation that is offered through Jesus Christ. God made the promise to Abraham that through his seed *“all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”* (Gen. 22.18). While the prophets spoke repeatedly about the promise of God and the arrival of Jesus through whom the promise would be realized, the time of its fulfillment remained largely a mystery. Peter writes that *“Of this salvation, the prophets have inquired and searched carefully...searching what or what manner of time the spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating...”* (1 Pet. 1.10-12).

When Jesus Christ was born, and His life unfolded to the climatic end on the cross, we see the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise. In fact, Paul explained to the Galatian brethren that *“when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son born of a woman, under the law.”* Therefore when Paul wrote those words in 2 Corinthians 6, he was pointing to the fact that the time in which God would fulfill His promise and bring salvation to all the nations of the earth had arrived. *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Cor. 6.2).

By way of application, every day that we have an opportunity to obey the gospel is a day of salvation. It is a time of great urgency. Ananias urged Saul, *“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized...”* (Acts 22.16). One ought not to be like Felix who told Paul to come back at a more convenient time (Acts 24.25). There is no promise of tomorrow, and James reminds us that we do not know what will happen (James 4.13-17). It is an urgent message because it is a desperate situation. If you do not reconcile the situation now, you may not get another opportunity.

The Hebrew writer warned, *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”* (Heb. 9.27). The day of salvation is now. Do not delay, but be prepared for the day of judgment before the time comes when we will be held accountable (Matt. 24.45-51).

CLP