

**Text:** 1 Cor. 11:26, Matthew 26:29, Luke 22:18

**Title:** The End of the Lord's Table

**Truth:** The Table points to our future hope, and reminds us of our Lord's death for us.

**Date/Location:** Sunday October 3, 2021 at FBC

## Hymns

#315 The Holy Heart

#297 Are You Washed in the Blood?

## Introduction

There are two sections of the Bible that indicate something about a termination point for the Lord's Table, at least as we practice it.

1 Corinthians 11:26 – For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **till He comes**.

Matthew 26:29 – But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day** when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." (See also Mark 14:25.)

Luke 22:18 – for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine **until the kingdom of God comes**.

The operative phrases are introduced by the little word "until." The ones in the gospel all use the word ἕως, which points to the end of a period of time. The period of time is the present, when the Lord is NOT partaking of the fruit of the vine. That period will end when the kingdom of God comes to the earth, and He will once again dine (and [new] wine?) with His disciples.

The phrase in 1 Corinthians does not use the same word, but it is very similar in meaning. It is ἄχρι, which refers to an extent of time up to a point. It is translated similarly in English, but here it refers to the present time in which we ARE partaking of the Table and proclaiming the Lord's death, until the point at which that ends at the return of Christ.

Either way you look at it, the Bible is telling us that something is going to change about the Communion ritual when the Lord returns. We

are proclaiming the Lord's death, but that will necessarily change when He returns; and the Lord is not partaking of the fruit of the vine, but He will once again after His return.

## I. What the Ritual Means Today

- A. The bread, unleavened, representing the sinless body of Christ. He was offered as a Lamb without spot (1 Peter 1:19).
- B. The bread is broken, representing that the body of Jesus was broken for us, ultimately resulting in death.
- C. The cup, new wine, representing the blood of Jesus that was poured out. Since life is lost when blood is gone, this is a fitting way of expressing that Jesus died for our sins. He shed his blood for my soul and without the shedding of blood (death, see Acts 22:20) there is no forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22).
- D. Eating and drinking *individually*, representing the individual participating in Christ by faith. "Drinking into" and "eating" Christ are pictures for taking part *in* Jesus Christ.
- E. Eating and drinking *together*, representing the church congregation's mutual participation in the work of Christ.
- F. In summary, the Lord's Table event is a live illustration of the fact that Jesus died for our sins. The mention of the coming of Christ means that we will be doing this all the way until the Lord Jesus returns.

Question is, do you know it now already, or are you in the dark?

- G. Presently, Jesus is not participating with us in a fellowship meal and He will not do so until He returns and inaugurates the Kingdom of God on earth.

## II. What Will happen in the Future Day

- A. The termination point of the present Lord's Table is when the Lord returns. It is our conviction that will occur in two stages: the rapture followed by the second coming itself. Regardless of that detail, Jesus promised to return and gather His people together with Him (Acts 1:11, John 14:3, 1 Thess. 4:16-17). As a result, we eagerly await His arrival (1 Cor. 1:7, Titus 2:13). But we also look

for His arrival with respect because we do not want to be ashamed when He returns (1 John 2:28) but we want to be pure (1 John 3:2-3). When He comes, every eye will see Him (Rev. 1:7) and it will be cause for great mourning among some (Zech. 12:10-11) and great joy in others.

- B. At that time, there will be something different about the meal He shares with His people, because He need not remember His own work on the cross for sinners or symbolize His own participation in it. His participation will be somehow different, like His own baptism at the hand of John the Baptist was different than our Christian baptism. We do know about one particular fellowship meal, and that is the wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9). We expect that the Lord will “drink it new” with the disciples in that day.
- C. Nothing is stated in Scripture as to a replacement or adjustment to the practice of Communion. We can surmise that it will be less necessary to proclaim the Lord’s death as if people do not know it, as is the case today. People in the future day will know about it (Jer. 31:34) or be informed about it by the people of God.
- D. New information will doubtlessly be revealed by Jesus Christ as He will be present on earth once again, as He directs the new order of things.

## **Conclusion**

We’ve thought about the future in this message. But we are not there yet. We are in the present, and in the present, we are told to continue observing the Lord’s Table to proclaim the Lord’s death for us. We do that with bread and grape juice as tangible reminders of the tremendous work He did on our behalf.

## **Hymn Prior to the Table #301 Wounded for Me**

Share the table elements.

## **Closing Hymn #364 I Will Sing of My Redeemer**

MAP