

Understanding the Meaning of the Bread and the Cup of the Lordian Table

Scripture Reading:

Luke 22:14-20

I Corinthians 11:23-25

INTRODUCTION

- The eleven believing apostles needed the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost in order to understand the many difficult teachings of Jesus
 - Jn 6:24-29 – “...eat my flesh and drink my blood”
 - Lk 18:31-34 – Jesus’ foretelling of His coming death and resurrection
 - Jn 16:12 – the upper room discourse
 - Lk 24:25-27 – Jesus’ death and resurrection after the fact
 - Matt 16:18 – the concept of Christ’s coming church

INTRODUCTION (continued)

This lack of understanding was also true of the things He said about:

- “the bread” - representing His body), and
- “the cup” – representing
 - His blood, and
 - The new covenant (the one with the Church)

They did not understand until after Pentecost!

Confusion of the Elements BEFORE the Day of Pentecost

- Comparison of the synoptic gospel accounts of the last supper
 - **Matt 26:26-29**
 - The bread = the body of Christ
 - The cup = the blood of Christ (which paid the forgiveness of sins)
 - **Mark 14:22-25** - almost identical to Matthew's account
 - **Lk 22:15-20**
 - The bread = Christ's body being given on the behalf of them
 - The 2nd cup = the New Covenant by means of His blood

Clarification and Comprehension of the Elements AFTER the Day of Pentecost

- I Cor 10:16-17
 - “the cup of blessing” = a fellowship (sharing in common) concerning the blood of Christ
 - The bread = a fellowship concerning the body of Christ
 - Vs 16 - we (NT grace believers) make up one bread, one body.

Clarification and Comprehension of the Elements AFTER the Day of Pentecost

- I Cor 11:23-25
 - The bread = the Body of Christ
 - We are IN Christ (Jn 14:20) by means of Holy Spirit baptism
 - I Cor 12:13, Gal 3:26-27, Rom 6:3-4, Eph 2:5-6
 - The cup – the New Covenant by means of His blood
 - Our spirit is joined to His Spirit
 - I Cor 6:17
 - Therefore, Christ is IN us
 - Jn 14:20, I Jn 5:11-12

CONCLUSION

- NOW, after Pentecost and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – who is the TEACHER of the WORD, the 11 apostles along with all NT grace believers could understand the transitional teachings of Christ.
- The bread and the cup represent the content of the present-tense salvation for NT grace believers
 - Us IN Christ
 - Christ IN us