

(Matt. 26:26-28) – Before our Lord gave Himself up to His enemies to suffer the death of the cross, He commanded His disciples to keep what we know as the Lord’s Supper which is a New Testament memorial ordinance given to the church as a constant reminder of His death to put away our sins and establish righteousness for our justification and eternal life. *“JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND BLESSED IT, AND BRAKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, AND SAID, TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY”* – He first took the unleavened bread to represent His sinless human body given as a sacrifice and sin-offering to suffer unto death as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. In order to stand in our place under the wrath of God for our sins imputed to Him, Christ had to have a sinless human body so that He could die the death that we deserved (Heb. 2:14-18). The breaking of the bread signifies His vicarious suffering unto death for our sins imputed to Him (1 Cor. 11:23-24).

Christ *“TOOK THE CUP, AND GAVE THANKS.”* He said the cup of wine represented His *“BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS”* (cf. 1 Cor. 11:25). This is His obedience unto death to satisfy the justice of God for the sins of His people – “the many,” which are the elect of God, Christ’s sheep, and the true church redeemed with His precious blood. The New Testament is the same as the New Covenant which is the fulfillment in time of the terms and conditions of the everlasting Covenant of Grace made before time. Christ’s blood is “the blood of the everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20-21), which is the very “righteousness of God” (the merit of Christ’s obedience unto death imputed to all of God’s elect for their justification and from which they receive spiritual and eternal life – Rom. 1:16-17; 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:21). Christ’s death is the propitiation for all the sins of His people and insures their salvation unto glory.

The eating of this bread and drinking of the cup by the disciples symbolize our God-given faith in Him and the fact that He alone is the Bread of life for His people and that His blood alone is our ground of forgiveness (John 6:49-58). We reject the heresy of the false Catholic Church that claims that the bread and the wine literally turn into the actual physical body and blood of Christ by which sinners receive blessings of salvation. They falsely claim that once an ordained priest blesses the bread of the Lord’s Supper, it is transformed into the actual flesh of Christ (though it retains the appearance, odor, and taste of bread); and when he blesses the wine, it is transformed into the actual blood of Christ (though it retains the appearance, odor, and taste of wine). This is heresy and a denial of the actual finished work of Christ on the cross, and it shows that in their Mass, they are re-crucifying the Lord. This is directly in contradiction to the true Gospel and what Scripture says, that Jesus died "once for all" and does not need to be sacrificed again (Heb. 1:1-3; 7:27; 10:10,14; 1 Pet. 3:18). These elements are purely symbolic and meant to remind us of our Savior’s obedience unto death by which He finished the work He was given by the Father to do for us as our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, and Preserver.

(Matt. 26:29) – Here, Christ spoke of the future great feast that He and all of His disciples would enjoy together in heaven. As this New Testament age comes nearer and nearer to its conclusion, Christ will be sending out His disciples and calling His people into His Father’s kingdom. When He finally gathers them all to Himself, there will be a great supper, the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9). This was (and is) the fulfillment of His Father’s kingdom for which He longed and which He would without fail have as His possession.

(Matt. 26:30-32) – *“THEY SUNG AN HYMN”* and Christ then led them *“OUT INTO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.”* He told them that they would *“BE OFFENDED”* (stumble) because of their association with Him (John 15:18—16:3). He quoted from Zechariah 13:7 how the Shepherd (Christ) would be slain, *“AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED ABROAD. BUT AFTER I AM RISEN AGAIN, I WILL GO BEFORE YOU INTO GALILEE.”* We know the disciples were somewhat scattered during the time of Christ’s arrest, trial, and crucifixion, but they did come back together after His resurrection and remained so until shortly after Pentecost. Then they were scattered throughout the Gentile world. This was all part of God’s plan and purpose to save all His elect, Jew and Gentile, wherever they are. But the fact that these particular disciples would be scattered was (and is) a testimony that salvation is totally of the Lord, by His grace, in and through Christ Jesus. These disciples were sinful men kept by the grace and power of God, not of their own power and goodness.

(Matt. 26:33-35) – It was then that Peter spoke up and boldly proclaimed, *“THOUGH ALL MEN SHALL BE OFFENDED BECAUSE OF THEE, YET WILL I NEVER BE OFFENDED.”* Here is where the Lord told him a sad truth – *“VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE, THAT THIS NIGHT, BEFORE THE COCK CROW, THOU SHALT DENY ME THRICE.”* Peter spoke boldly again – *“THOUGH I SHOULD DIE WITH THEE, YET WILL I NOT DENY THEE.”* We know that Peter spoke rashly and what the Lord told him came true. Peter would be intimidated before a humble servant girl, and before her Peter would deny that he even knew Jesus. Like all of us, Peter needed to learn the grace and gift of Godly humility. We need to know our frame, our sinfulness and weakness, to know that salvation is all of grace by the power and goodness of God in Christ. We need to know that if Christ does not save us and keep us from falling, we will fall. By nature, Peter was no different from Judas, but by God’s grace, Peter was one of Christ’s true sheep. Notice that the other disciples joined Peter in this bold statement – *“LIKEWISE ALSO SAID ALL THE DISCIPLES.”* We are all by nature self-righteous and proud. We think too highly of ourselves, but God brings us down to humble us under His grace and make us to know that our hope, confidence, and strength is in Christ and Him alone!