

## **“THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME...” (2)**

By Keith Greer

"In this article, we want to look at our "attitudes" in partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is not only important that we do the right action, we need to remember that we must also have the right purpose and proper attitude. God will not accept our worship if our "heart is not right".

The apostle Paul addressed these problems to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 11. Please notice the thought in verse 17: "Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse."

The church may be assembled for the right purpose, on the right day, and do the right action, yet be "for the worse". How can this be possible? Let's read on....

"Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk." (1 Corinthians 11:20-21) The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remind us of Christ death upon the cross. Paul rebuked the Corinthians because they were partaking of the Lord's Supper for the wrong reason. What were they doing wrong?

"What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you." (1 Corinthians 11:22) The Lord's Supper is not for the purpose of satisfying physical hunger or thirst, and, yet, the Corinthians were making it a common meal.

For those who want to practice the "social gospel", please notice that the apostle Paul asked a logical Question. "HAVE YOU NOT HOUSES TO EAT AND DRINK IN?..." Paul did not praise the Corinthians but rebuked them for the mockery they were making of this special "memorial feast".

So, what type of attitude should we have when partaking of this memorial?

"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Is man "worthy" of partaking of this memorial? We are not "worthy" of anything God has done for us; but Paul is not referring to "our worthiness." Rather, we are to "center" our minds on what we are doing, and why, so that we do not partake of the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy" manner.

What do you think about as you partake of the bread? Do you think about the fine dinner you are going to have or the ballgame this afternoon? Do you think about the things of this world, or do you think about Jesus?

Do you think about Jesus and the pain and agony that He suffered as He was led to the cross and had nails driven into His hands and feet? Do you think about Jesus as He hung on the cross for you and me?

What do you think about as you drink the fruit of the vine? Do you think about how sweet or sour the juice taste? Why it's too cold or too warm? Do you even worry with all the visitors if they might run out of cups? Are you looking at the cute baby the mother is holding in front of you and smiling at the baby and telling your wife how cute he or she is. Yes, we can have our minds pre-occupied with a thousand different things. All of us need to discipline our minds to remember the reason we are taking these elements. Our Lord's death on the cross and the suffering He endured. Greater love man has never known! \*\*\*(continue on following page)