

Just as it is now, this scripture is about the Passover when Jesus-Yeshua came into Jerusalem to offer Himself as the sacrificial Lamb for the sins of mankind.

It was remembering the Passover first instituted with Moses and Israel, but this was going to be different and take on a new meaning for all who followed Jesus from this time forward.

The elements and meaning were the same, but the significance was going to become greater because this was a fulfillment of what was instituted long ago.

**“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, TAKE – EAT; this is MY Body**

**Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.**

**And He said to them: This is MY Body of the New Covenant, which is shed for many.**

**Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God”**

The Lord’s Supper-Communion is a reminder of what Jesus did in the **PAST**,

A symbol of our **PRESENT** relationship with Him, and a promise of what He will do in the **FUTURE**.

1. **Past-** The death of Jesus is a tremendous gift to us.
  - It was a gift that involved great personal sacrifice on behalf of the Father and Jesus for our benefit.
  - The Lord doesn’t want us to grieve about his His death; but receive it with great gratitude.
  - The Lord’s Supper is not a memorial of a death, it is not a funeral as if Jesus was still dead.
  - It is a memorial knowing that death held Jesus only three days – knowing that death will not hold us forever.
  - We rejoice and celebrate that Jesus has conquered death and set free all those enslaved by the fear of death:
    - Heb. 2:14-15 “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy

him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. And release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

- Our mourning has turned to JOY - John 16:20- “Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, **but your sorrow will be turned into joy.**”

The Israelites look back to the Passover events as the defining moment in their history when their identity began as a nation – when they escaped death and slavery through God’s deliverance.

2. **The Present-** The Church looks to the events of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection as the defining moment in our history when we escaped death and slavery to sin and we are now free to serve the Lord.

Communion – the Lord’s Supper is a memorial of this defining moment in our history.

**So we now share in His Crucifixion – His Death – His Resurrection – His Life because our lives are IN Him.**

**The Lord’s Supper is a picture of the Christ life that is now in us.**

The Lord Supper causes us to look **UPWARD** to Christ and be mindful that true life can only be found IN Him and WITH Him.

Human nature is prone to attempt to clean our act before we come to the Lord and accept Him – self effort.

The best we can do is hide our sins in a closet trying to cover up –

**Growing in the Lord is a process and the Lord’s Supper-Communion is part of that process:**

1Cor. 11:28 Paul said “Everyone should take a careful look at themselves before they eat the bread and drink from the cup.”

- We need to be mindful of the meaning of the taking of the bread and the cup.
- When we examine our lives we do find sin and shortcomings, that is normal – but it is not a reason to avoid the Lord’s Supper.
- It is a reminder that we need Jesus in our lives – only HE can take our sins away.

- We do need to examine our lives to see if we are living the way Jesus asks us to live:
  - Are we treating one another the way Jesus commanded?

The Lord's Supper is a picture of our participation in Christ and with one another:

1Cor. 10:17 "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

By participating in the Lord's Supper, we picture the fact that we are one body in Christ, One with each other, with responsibilities toward one another.

3. **The Future-** Jesus said: "I will not drink of the vine again until I come in the fullness of the Kingdom."

When you and I participate in the taking of the Bread and the Cup, we are anticipating Jesus' promise that there will be a **Messianic banquet – a wedding supper of celebration.**

The taking of the Bread and the Cup is a rehearsal of what will be the greatest – grandest – most glorious victory celebration in all history.

Paul declares that:

"Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup – you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." 1Cor. 11:26.

As often as we participate in this act – it should remind us of God's love for all of mankind with a love that never fails and never grows old.

As we commemorate Jesus' death – we are gloriously confident of God's love for us.

Yes, we are mindful that Jesus died because of our sins – He went to the cross of each one of us.

So this Communion is an act of humbling ourselves [even as Jesus did – even to death on the cross] and seek to serve Him and others with our lives.

Phil 2:4-8