

WHAT WE BELIEVE – WEEK 5

Baptism and the Lord's Supper and The Future

BIBLE STUDY

8. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

GET THINKING!

1. What do you think should prevent someone from taking the Lord's Supper?

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

17 Now in giving the following instruction I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For in the first place, when you come together as a church I hear there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must in fact be divisions among you, so that those of you who are approved may be evident. 20 Now when you come together at the same place, you are not really eating the Lord's Supper. 21 For when it is time to eat, everyone proceeds with his own supper. One is hungry and another becomes drunk. 22 Do you not have houses so that you can eat and drink? Or are you trying to show contempt for the church of God by shaming those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I will not praise you for this!

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24 and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

27 For this reason, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 A person should examine himself first, and in this way let him eat the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For the one who eats and drinks without careful regard for the body eats and drinks judgment against himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and sick, and quite a few are dead. 31 But if we examined ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you assemble it does not lead to judgment. I will give directions about other matters when I come. (1 Cor. 11:17-34 NET)

1. What are the main elements and purpose of taking the Lord's Supper in vv.23-26?

2. What were the Corinthians getting wrong?

3. How should we approach taking the Lord's Supper according to vv.27-28?

4. What are the consequences of getting it wrong in vv.29-32?

FOR US

1. What should it mean for us to examine ourselves?

2. When should someone not take the Lord's Supper?

9. THE FUTURE

GET THINKING

1. How do you think the truth of the new creation changes how we live now?

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

1 Dear friends, this is already the second letter I have written you, in which I am trying to stir up your pure mind by way of reminder: 2 I want you to recall both the predictions foretold by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. 3 Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges 4 and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For they deliberately suppress this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water. 6 Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. 7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (2 Pet. 3:1-7 NET)

1. Why do some people scoff at the idea of Jesus coming to judge and a new creation?

2. What does Peter say this is a mistake?

8 Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day. 9 The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare. 11 Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must we be, conducting our lives in holiness and godliness, 12 while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! 13 But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides. (2 Pet. 3:8-13 NET)

1. What reasons does Peter give for the long gap between Jesus' ascension and his return?
2. How does Peter describe his return and what will happen to the old creation?
3. What should be the impact on the way Christians?
4. How does he describe the new creation?

FOR US

1. How can we encourage one another to live with the new creation in mind?

DAILY READINGS

DAY 1

Read

1 What shall we say then? Are we to remain in sin so that grace may increase? 2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection. 6 We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.) (Rom. 6:1-7 NET)

Reflect

1. How does baptism symbolise being united with Christ?
2. What benefits do we read of here from being united with Christ?

Pray

Give thanks for how baptism points us to union with Christ and the wonderful realities of being united to him.

DAY 2

Read

Having been buried with him in baptism, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead. (Col. 2:12 NET)

Reflect

1. How does baptism point us to the gospel according to these verses?
2. How does Paul's language of "through your faith" help us to see that baptism is a symbol not a mechanism for giving us eternal life?

Pray

Give thanks for the truths baptism symbolises?

DAY 3

Read

For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us. (Rom. 8:18 NET)

Reflect

1. How does Paul describe the present?
2. How does he describe the future?

Pray

Pray that our future hope would enable us to live in the present.

DAY 4

Read

19 For the creation eagerly waits for the revelation of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility– not willingly but because of God who subjected it– in hope 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers together until now. (Rom. 8:19-22 NET)

Reflect

1. What effect has sin had on creation?
2. What will the return of Jesus bring about for creation?

Pray

Pray to remember the reality of creation now and the certain hope of the new creation.

DAY 5

Read

23 Not only this, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with endurance. (Rom. 8:23-25 NET)

Reflect

1. What is our experience in this broken world?
2. How does Paul describe our hope?

Pray

Pray for a deeper appreciation of our hope.