

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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Strict and/or Closed Communion

Examined by the scriptures

THE PASSOVER SUPPER:

In the institution of the Lord’s Supper, our Lord said, “For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, take this and divide it among yourselves; For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come”. (NOTE: The kingdom of God HAD NOT come as yet). And He took the bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave it unto them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise, also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the NEW TESTAMENT (New Promises) in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:16-20).

I do not believe that there is any question that this initial “lord’s Supper” experience was restricted and limited to the presence of his disciples per the scripture record.

As the Pentecostal experience of the Holy Ghost manifestation and miraculous indwelling of the Spirit within the believers took place after our Lord’s ascension, the COMFORTER, as promised had now come.

This glorious occasion revealed that the grand advent of the kingdom of God had come among men through the might of the Holy Spirit. And the disciples / apostles spoke as never before with Holy boldness preaching the kingdom of God and that Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of the salvation of sinners and the birth of the New Testament Church.

The apostle Paul addressing the Church at Corinth expressed the following:

“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. When ye come together therefore into one place, this is NOT to eat the Lord’s supper. For in eating everyone taketh before other his own supper; and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? Have ye not houses to eat and to

drink in? or despise ye the Church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not, for I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you.”

Note: Paul was NOT present during the Lord’s instituting of His Supper yet was informed of the occasion by the disciples present and how our Lord said, “Do this in remembrance of me till I come again.” “That the Lord Jesus the same night (Passover) in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament (new and living way) in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.” *Note: To the best of my limited understanding, the ONLY way to partake of the Lord’s bread and cup unworthily is to be found “outside” the New Birth experience unable to SEE or discern the Lord’s body as one’s sacrifice and redeemer. So this gives me an indication that those “in attendance within” the Corinthian assembly could have very well been unregenerate “tares” among the wheat partaking of the Lord’s supper elements. It appears that Paul DID NOT “CLOSE” nor “RESTRICT” the Lord’s supper but proclaimed the following warnings. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink that cup. Note: Paul has left the decision of WHO shall partake of these elements up to the individuals, NOT THE CHURCH.*

For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation unto himself NOT DISCERNING THE LORD’S BODY. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if WE WOULD JUDGE OURSELVES *Note: not the Church in a Strict or Restrictive sense* we should not be judged. But when we are judged, *by ourselves* we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry ye one for another. And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come” (I Corin. 11:19-34).

In Conclusion: Now I realize that I am “going against the grain” of traditional Primitive Baptist teaching with the following comments, yet I find myself compelled to speak the truth as I have been given understanding (lest I be deceived, which I could be) and do not desire to “hobby horse” my convictions upon those of opposing views.

First: I have come to believe that the ordinance of the Lord’s supper is that which is to be administered from the “Lord’s table” not a Church’s table..... The table upon which the elements of the “body and blood” of our Lord Jesus Christ are displayed is for those who have been blessed with the supernatural gift of faith to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ as one’s Saviour and divine advocate for sins forgiven, and the only HOPE of eternal life beyond this time mortal realm; those who have been caused to believe by

the means of sovereign free grace alone as manifested through the experience of the new birth.

Second: *It is the ministering brethren that are, by scriptural example to warn them who are desiring to partake of the Lord's "Body and Blood" as the apostle Paul expressed in our aforementioned text. Upon such warning from the scriptures, the assembly shall move as the Spirit causes the attendees to "come and eat, Come and drink" of their Lord's "Body and Blood" as the church has agreed upon the order of service.*

Third: *Since there is NO scriptural reference to any local Church assembly as having an "official membership", I would be fearful in being guilty of "refusing and or rejecting" a professing believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who has demonstrated by their confession of faith and experience of grace from being able to partake of the elements of our beloved Lord's "Body and Blood." NOWHERE in the Holy Writ is there evidence where our Lord, his disciples and apostles were to reject brethren from the Lord's Supper who did not line up with the "jot & tittles" of a certain denominations doctrine, especially those things that man has made as "traditions". If a brother comes among you and has not been blessed with the exact same understanding as you on the scriptures, are you going to judge him "unworthy?"*

Oh! Dear brethren, we must be careful as to WHY we follow an "Old Path" tradition; is it a "thus saith the Lord" reason, or because it has always been that way? I have know brethren of years gone by that were strong Old Baptist Elders that served the Lord's Church faithfully until death, that has told me personally, "Brother, I have continued that way because our people have always held to that position, and for peace and harmony sake I have adhered to it as well," although the dear brother felt differently in his heart, but was bound by "tradition."

Tradition KILLETH, but TRUTH bringeth peace, joy, and rest in Christ our Saviour. "Ye made the commandments of God of none effect by your "TRADITIONS." Teaching for doctrines the commandments of MEN" (Matt. 15:6-9).

May our God cause us to seek the truth and walk therein, no matter what the cost, scrutiny or rejection for Jesus sake.

January 17, 2008