

THE FEAST OF COMMUNION

Text: Matthew 26:26-29

Introduction:

1. The feasts commanded by God were physical observances that had mental and emotional benefits.
2. Of course, they also taught important spiritual lessons.
3. Under the New Testament, the only feast commanded by God is the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper.
 - a. It is strange that so many emphasize a time of feasting, like Christmas, that is not authorized by Scripture.
 - b. Yet they fail to obey God's commands for keeping the one authorized feast of the New Testament!
4. Indeed, it is a feast of communion...

I. A Connected Feast

(Matthew 26:1-2)

- A. There is an obvious connection between the Lord's Supper and the Old Testament Feast of Passover (Exodus 12).
 1. Passover was related to the beginning of a new year (12:2).
 2. Passover was kept in community (12:4, 6).
 3. Passover was tied to their freedom from bondage (12:13).
- B. The Lord's Supper was instituted while the disciples kept the Passover Feast (Matthew 26:5, 17-20).
- C. The Passover involved unleavened bread, appropriately representing the sinless body of Jesus to be offered for sin (Matthew 26:26; Luke 22:19).
 1. Jesus had declared that He is the Bread of Life (John 6:33-35).
 2. In this context, Jesus demonstrated that He is greater than the manna from Heaven that was eaten in the wilderness, connecting this to the Feast of Tabernacles (John 6:49-51; Numbers 29).
 3. The body of Jesus offered on the cross would supply eternal life through the forgiveness of sins.
- D. The Passover also included the sacrifice of a lamb, foreshadowing the offering of the Lamb of God for the sins of the world (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:10).
- E. The Passover involved the fruit of the vine, symbolizing the blood of the Savior that delivers from the bondage of sin (Hebrews 9:14, 22).
- F. By this remitting of sins, the Lord's Supper is also connected to the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32).

Bible Feasts

- II. A Covenant Feast (Matthew 26:26-28)
 - A. An example of a covenant meal took place at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:7-11).
 - 1. Because of the covenant, the parties involved were able to enjoy fellowship with one another.
 - 2. It was also a statement of commitment to the conditions and principles of the covenant.
 - B. The New Testament was ratified with the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 9:14ff).
 - C. When the Christian partakes of the Lord's Supper, he does so in covenant with Jesus.

- III. A Communal Feast (Matthew 26:29)
 - A. The Lord desired to eat this meal with His disciples (Luke 22:15-16).
 - B. He continues to desire to eat with His disciples today!
 - C. Because of the death of Jesus, the Christian is able to live and dine in fellowship with the Lord.