

Nourished By Good News

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 7th, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

~Luke 22:19-20 (ESV)

1) The Gospel Context Of Communion

- A) On Sunday morning (usually once a month), we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, commonly named “Communion.” How is this Good News (Gospel), and from where does it come?
- B) There is no more rich background to Communion than the celebration of Passover from the Exodus. Passover commemorated God’s protection and deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12:1-16).
- C) 12 important Passover observations:
 - i) Passover represented new beginnings (12:2)
 - ii) Passover involved all God’s people (12:3)
 - iii) Passover was observed with family (12:3)
 - iv) Passover provided for benevolent needs (12:4)
 - v) Passover involved purity, sacrifice, and blood (12:5-6)
 - vi) Passover distinguished God’s people by blood (12:7)
 - vii) Passover meals were completely consumed (12:6-10)
 - viii) Passover was remembered with urgency (12:11)
 - ix) Passover remembered salvation by blood (12:12-13)
 - x) Passover is to be remembered forever (12:14)
 - xi) Passover was observed annually as part of a multi-generational community celebration (12:15-16)
 - xii) Passover provided for all nourishment needs (12:16)

- D) Finally, in addition to the above observations, those not belonging to God's people (non-followers), were forbidden from participating in Passover (Exodus 12:43-48). Since they had not been freed from slavery, there was no need for commemorating the event.

2) The Upper Room Passover With Christ

- A) Jesus' meal with His disciples in the Upper Room was a Passover observance. The rich background of Passover prepares us for what Christ is about to do (Luke 22:7-20).
- B) In His typically shocking manner, Jesus completely re-frames Passover around His own death. The commemoration from the Exodus now becomes the commemoration of Christ's death!
- C) Christ re-frames Israel's most sacred meal which revealed the beginnings of a new relationship between God and mankind, with ultimate answers to a relationship between God and mankind, the Messiah Jesus Christ.
- D) In the same manner of Passover, Jesus Christ's death is also rooted in purity, sacrifice, blood, and freedom from slavery. Passover prefigures Christ's death in every way!
- E) In the same way that Passover was about the blood of the Lamb, Communion also remembers the spilled blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.
- F) The blood on the doorposts/lintel of Jewish homes was an outward action of faith that God would "pass over" their homes, sparing them from judgment. In the same manner, we are brought into new life through faith in Christ's sacrificial death on the cross (cf. Romans 5:6-10).
- G) The modern observation of Passover is Communion. Followers of Christ are called to come together in unity and benevolence, constantly (rather than annually) living out communion with Christ (1st Corinthians 11:17ff).

3) A Constant Reminder Of Life In The Gospel

- A) Communion, which we will observe this morning, is a constant symbol of Christ's death, the means by which have received salvation. In a nutshell, it is the Gospel!
- B) In the same way we need food for nourishment, we require ongoing spiritual nourishment from the fuel of the Gospel for living out our communion in Christ.