

COMMUNION NEW YEAR'S DAY 2023

The information about the Lord's Supper, also known as Communion, and the Eucharist is found in Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:22-26.

We look back to the cross to obey the command to observe this ritual. It helps us to have gratitude for our LJC and to remember what is most important in this life.

It focuses our attention on what it took to provide our so great salvation.

What was Jesus Christ thinking about the night before He went to the cross? We don't have to guess because the Bible tells us in John chapter 17 which is the real Lord's Prayer.

John 17:15 *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

John 17:17 *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

John 17:24 *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

This was His last prayer before His agony in the garden and His crucifixion. His last thing He desired was that we might be with Him where He is. He wasn't thinking about His welfare but about ours.

Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of G.F. in the midst of untold numbers of angels who are praising Him and the Father. His request in vs. 24 was that we could be there with Him, enjoying the glories of heaven and experiencing tremendous happiness with Him.

Two Elements:

UNLEAVENED BREAD represents the perfect sinless humanity of J.C.

Latin phrase: *Posse non peccare, non posse peccare*; which means Christ was able not to sin in his humanity, and not able to sin in his deity.

Jesus had to be sinless because God could only accept a perfect sinless sacrifice.

Do you know why they ate unleavened bread at the Passover and we eat it during the Lord's Supper? It represents the perfect sinlessness of Jesus Christ.

"Bread" *i.e.* food sustains life. J.C. is the bread of life, He gives life and sustains life.

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

Anyone can eat, anyone can believe in Christ (eat of the living bread)

John 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;

Christ was born in Bethlehem which means "House of Bread"

THE CUP represents the sacrifice of Christ for us on the cross.

He died twice on the cross and voluntarily gave up his life for us.

His sacrifice is the only thing that satisfies the justice and +R of God. It is the only thing that stands between us and the Lake of Fire.

He conquered sin and death on the cross so they no longer have p1

Corinthians 15:55-57 o death, where is your victory? o death, where is your sting?" 56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57) but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will have a moment of prayer to consecrate ourselves as we acknowledge any unconfessed sins so that we will be ready to partake of the elements.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE for 2023

Many people see the New Year as a time to make New Year's resolutions to commit themselves to being a better person in some way. However, the Bible says that there is a time for every purpose under heaven.

Read: ***Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*** *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.*

Do you make New Year's resolutions? If you do, do you keep them? How long do you keep them?

People who make New Year's resolutions have good intentions they sincerely desire to accomplish honorable goals and to be a better person. What is probably the number one New Year's resolution? Losing weight or going on a diet.

Here are a few others: stop smoking; stop taking drugs, stop over drinking, stop cursing, stop arguing; stop losing your temper, stop judging others; stop gossiping; stop criticizing others; stop complaining; stop pouting and start communicating; stop procrastinating; stop being addicted to your cell phone; TV; or the internet; and start reading books; exercise more; tolerate others more; be on time more; encourage others more; listen more; give the gospel more, and be more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled.

All the things listed above are commendable, but they all are doomed to fail over time because resolutions depend on us, on our very puny power. It leaves God out of it.

BUT, if we ask God to help us with the things listed above and depend on Him and His unlimited power, He will enable us to accomplish the things listed above and much more.

John 16:24 *Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.*

Matthew 7:7-8 *Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 8) "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.*

James 4:2-3 *You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

James 1:5 *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

Psalm 25:4-5 Make me know Thy ways, O LORD; Teach me Thy paths. 5) Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, For Thou art the God of my salvation; For Thee I wait all the day.

A few examples of Asking God:

Ask God to teach you priorities in life. “Lord, I have so many things to do. Give me wisdom to know what to do first and strength to do it; then teach me how to put everything else in order.”

Ask God to make you a better manager. “Lord, there are so many things I must do and there are other things I want to do but can’t. I pray for help to keep everything straight, and I pray for help to the right thing in the right way.”

Ask God for help when you are afraid. “Father I pray that you will help me be calm and to be able to think clearly when under duress. I’m asking for strength and courage based on Your power and abilities, not mine.”

If the last two years are any indication of what this year may be like, it could be the most difficult year that we have ever experienced. Hopefully, we have learned not to put our trust in man, nor his promises, but in God who is the only One who can save our country. We don’t know if He will or will not, but we do know that He will do what is righteous and just.

We also know that He will bless those who trust in Him and who wait for His perfect plan to unfold. Believers who are growing spiritually have nothing to fear. He will use them to spread the gospel and to stand for what is right and refuse to comply with evil. These believers will receive rewards, decorations, privileges, and special opportunities for all eternity.

Just as every individual will either believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal salvation or reject Him, every believer will either embrace God’s word and grow spiritually or he will remain biblically illiterate & disobedient.

Our goal for 2023 is to please our Lord not only by learning Bible Doctrine, but to also apply it to our circumstances, no matter what they may be.

“There is a gloomy and passive way of waiting for events to come upon us, and there is a heroic way of going out to meet them, strong in God and fearing nothing. When the body of Catiline was found on the battlefield it was found far in advance of all his troops and among the enemy; and the best way is not for us to lie down and let the events of life trample over us, but to go forth in a Christian spirit determined to conquer.” T. De Witt Talmage, 500 Selected Sermons, vol. 3 (WORDsearch, 2010), 311.

We should be courageous Christian soldiers who are ready to go anywhere, do anything, at any time for the Lord Jesus Christ who died on a cross to save us from spending eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Focusing on our problems always leads to fear, but focusing on the Lord always leads to courage. Believers who grow spiritually will be blessed and rewarded, but those who are arrogant and disobedient will be disciplined and shamed.

1 Timothy 4:7b-8 ... discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

“We have read of a college girl who, as she tacked the New Year calendar to the wall, said: “It is going to be a beautiful year!” “How do you know?” asked her roommate. “Well,” she replied, “a day isn’t a long time, and I know it is going to be beautiful because I am going to take a day at a

*time and make it so. I will see that every one of those 365 days gets at least one beautiful thing into it through my efforts.” Her New Year motto might be, in the words of David, “**So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom**” Psalm 90:12. Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 1486.*

Yesterday is a canceled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is the only cash you have—spend it wisely. Ibid 1485

Another Year

Another year is dawning— A path unknown, untried.
'would fill me with foreboding, Had I no hand to guide;
But He who walked beside me, All through the yesteryear,
Whatever may betide me, Has promised to be near.

Another year with Jesus! Ah, then, no dread I know.
His love is ever precious, Howe'er the winds may blow.
Even when the storm is fiercest, In Him my soul may rest,
And find sweet peace and comfort, upon His loving brest.

Another year to trust Him— Yes, I can trust Him still,
Who never yet has failed me - As I have sought His will.
His rod and staff He giveth - To be my strength and stay,
And tenderly He Leadeth - Along the homeward way.
Another year to serve Him - To labor for Him here,
Even while the shadows lengthen - And night is drawing near.
I know not when He'll call me - To lay my sickle by—
Oh, may I then be faithful - While now the moments fly!

Another year to love Him - Whom I have loved so long;
Another year to praise him - In glad, triumphant song.
Whate'er the future holdeth - Of sorrow, toil, or pain
His precious Love endureth - Forevermore the same.

Another year with Jesus! - I thank Thee, Lord, today
For Thy unfailing presence - Along life's rugged way.
Guide me, O blest Redeemer - Teach me to do Thy will,
And Thine own perfect purpose - In me each day fulfill.

—Avis Christiansen *Ibid* 1487.