

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

(1 Cor. 11:23-29)

Introduction:

1. Tomorrow is our nation's observance of Memorial Day. And it is more than a day off of work. Webster's New World Dictionary defines memorial as "serving to help people remember, anything meant to help people remember a person or event, as a monument or holiday". In the United States of America, Memorial Day is meant to be a day of remembrance of all of those who have died in the defense of this nation, and that is a good thing.
2. Today is the Christian's Memorial Day; also called the Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10). Let us consider the fact that God has always provided memorials for His people, and especially consider the memorial our Lord has given us to observe until His return.

Discussion:

I. God has always given His people memorials.

- A. Although unstated as such, the altar of the Patriarchal System was a memorial. It served to "bring to remembrance" the existence of God, our struggle with sin, and our hope in the promised Savior.
- B. Although unstated as such, the expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the flood, and even the scattering from Babel were memorials. They served, and continue to serve, to "bring to remembrance" the devastating consequence of sin (disobedience to God).
- C. God was constantly giving the Israelites memorials.
 1. His name was used as a memorial (Ex. 3:15; Ps. 135:13; Hos. 12:5).
 2. The numerous feast He gave to Israel served as memorials (Ex. 12:14; 13:9; Lev. 23:24).
 3. The numerous offerings commanded by God were to serve as memorials (Ex. 30:16; Lev. 2:2; 5:12; Num. 5:15; et al).
 4. Various events in Israel's history were documented to serve as memorials (Egypt itself; Ex. 17:14; Num. 16:40; 31:54; Josh. 4:7).

II. The memorial from our Lord.

- A. The word memorial only occurs three times as such in the New Testament.
 1. With regards to Mary's anointing of Jesus (Matt. 26:13; Mark 14:9).
 2. With regard to the prayers of Cornelius (Acts 10:4; cp. Gen. 8:1; 6:8).
- B. But the concept is found throughout. The Holy Spirit given to the apostles to distribute to others was a way to bring Jesus back into the world (to bring Jesus to remembrance)-Edwin Jones.
- C. Our Lord Himself gave us the most important memorial that we are commanded to observe every week.
 1. We are commanded to partake of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in order to remember His body (given for us) and His blood (shed for us). Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25.
 2. Unleavened bread because it was the Passover meal, a part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And leaven in all but one circumstance was always associated with corruption.
 3. Grape juice because wine is fermented grape juice (fermentation = a process of leaven).
 4. We partake to remember our Lord and to declare His Gospel (1 Cor. 11:25, 26; 15:1-4).

Conclusion:

1. Brethren, God came in the flesh and paid the price for our sin and rebellion because of His great love for us. He has offered to all mankind the forgiveness of sin (to begin with and day by day thereafter) so that we might have the hope/assurance of an eternity with Him in heaven. Let us never forget these things that have been done for us. Let us never lose our focus and dedication to that goal. Let us never forget God's desire that all men be saved, and help others to come to the knowledge of the truth.
2. Invitation.