

REMEMBERING JESUS

AN INTIMATE EVENING

- The Remembrance Supper is a time of personal reflection and forward contemplation of our aspirations for peace on earth and the ultimate adoption from faith sons on earth to spirit sons in heaven. (*Romans 8:23*) It is a time to leave behind the baggage of yesterday (*Philippians 3:13-14*) and acknowledge and reinforce our rebirth into the Jesus fellowship, the brotherhood of the sons of God through the life and ministry of Christ Jesus. (*Galatians 3:26*) And it is a time to fully enjoy the freedom of the sons of God now, and to prepare ourselves for expanded freedom in the eternal heavenly career. (*2 Corinthians 3:17*) Let us participate with whole hearts, whole minds and whole souls. Doing so will make for a spirit charged, contemplative and intimate evening with our Lord, Christ Jesus.
- When Jesus instituted the first Memorial Supper, he invited his close associates and closed the door behind them with no concern about the scribes, the Pharisees, or the disbelieving nation. They existed in their own intimate moment where brotherly love and humility reigned.



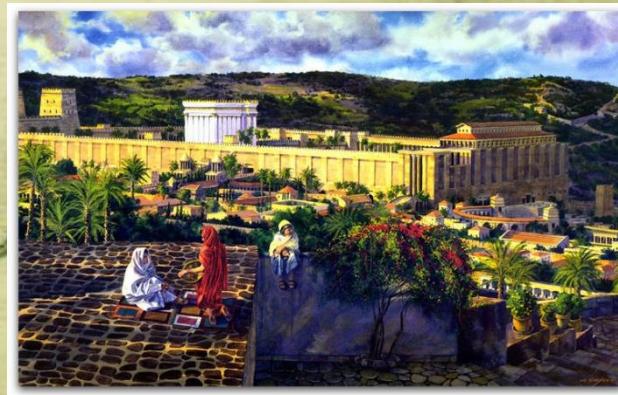
- The life and ministry of Jesus, as represented by the 'bread' and the 'cup,' is the means by which every generation can have and exercise hope in the unbreakable promise that the Kingdom of the Heavens is available for all who endure to the end of their mortal life. (*Matthew 10:22*)
- Jesus had a message to give to our world and he let nothing distract him from that agenda. He was not concerned with political systems or social reform. Loving the Father with our whole being, loving one another as ourselves (*Mark 12:29-31*), proclaiming the good news of the kingdom that sets men free from enslavement to sin, to dogma, and doctrines of men (*Matthew 28:19-20*), that was the beginning and ending of Jesus' agenda. He knew that if we could master these things, it would have a domino effect on the rest of society so that all things fall into place as the natural outcome of a God-oriented people. (*Matthew 6:33*)
- Sometimes in our day-to-day lives, we lose sight of that agenda. Sometimes we allow the teachings of men, the thrill of the moment, the achievements, accolades or plaudits of men to disrupt that agenda. But this night is a golden opportunity to set matters straight in our minds and hearts.
- Those who partake of the Christ will be the ones who will be instrumental in ushering in a renewed concept of worship and forward-thinking religion. They are learning to shake off the shackles of controlling and domineering religion and experience self-governance as the free children of God. They are the foundation stones to a new society that will look to the heavens as its future instead of the dust of the ground. This generation is the new beginning of an enlightened era. The sons of the kingdom are indeed, 'the light of the world.' (*Matthew 5:14-16*)

ENHANCING THE MEANING OF THE BREAD AND THE WINE

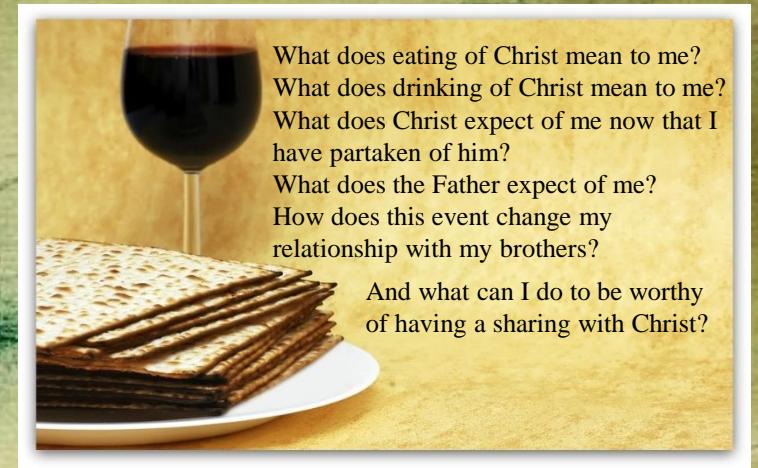
- The old Passover commemorated the emergence of the Jewish people from a state of slavery into individual physical freedom.



- The new Remembrance Supper instituted by Jesus commemorates the new dispensation wherein the individual emerges from the bondage of ceremonialism and tradition into spiritual freedom – the joy of the brotherhood and fellowship of the liberated faith sons of the living God. (*Romans 8:20-21*) The simple and unpretentious ceremony took place in the upper chamber of a friend (*Luke 22:11-12*) and was established without ecclesiastical sanction. (*Matthew 26:26-28*)
- As was his practice, Jesus employed parables and symbolisms to teach great spiritual truths and to prevent the crystallizing of his teachings. (*Mark 4:33*) Symbols and parables expand our understanding whereas precise definitions limit us. When instituting the Remembrance Supper, Jesus also employed the use of symbols. Rather than destroy the individual's concept of divine communion by limiting its meaning, he set man's reborn soul free upon the joyous wings of a new and living spiritual liberty. This allows us a great deal of latitude in thinking and in contemplating what it means to us individually to 'eat and drink' of him.



- As we prepare to partake of the bread and the wine, let us reflect on his words and allow ourselves the freedom to recognize a higher and enhanced understanding commensurate with our growing spiritual capacity. We are not bound to the meanings given according to the chains of tradition and dogma. We are free to use our spiritual insight and to expound on the meaning of (1) the symbols and (2) the practice of eating and drinking of Christ, in order to develop a larger and greater understanding. (*1 John 2:27*)
- So let us take some time to contemplate the symbolisms associated with the Remembrance Supper. Ask yourself:



What does eating of Christ mean to me?
What does drinking of Christ mean to me?
What does Christ expect of me now that I have partaken of him?
What does the Father expect of me?
How does this event change my relationship with my brothers?

And what can I do to be worthy of having a sharing with Christ?

- If time permits, allow those in attendance free expression without condemnation. It is like looking at a beautiful work of art that grabs the individual's attention and ignites something within his own spirit. Each observer may have his own interpretation and appreciation of the same work, but all will agree that it is beautiful! Likewise, we should not be surprised that the Remembrance Supper can effect each of us in different ways. In this manner, we expand our own understanding and appreciation of Jesus, and we gain better insight into our brothers and are accordingly drawn closer.
- Jesus asked that as often as we do this, we do it in remembrance of him. We remember him by:

1. Looking back upon his life in the flesh. Recalling that he did indeed live among man as the word of God, the bread of life, the way, the truth and life, the one to whom all authority has been given in heaven and on earth, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.
2. We accept him by receiving the outpouring of the Spirit of Truth into our own vessels so that it bears witness with our spirit and so that we are guided, comforted, strengthened, empowered and renewed.
3. And by faith, we discern that we shall all sometime sup with him in the Father's eternal kingdom.

- In this intimate evening supper, we are free to be intimate and deeply personal with Christ in our understanding and appreciation of his life and ministry because, as spirit-conscious sons of the Father, we know that Christ is literally present, in our midst. (*Matthew 18:20*) And when we have concluded this supper, let us resolve in our hearts that we will never turn our backs on the friendships and relationships we have cultivated this evening, learning to love one another 'as Jesus loved us.' (*John 13:34*)

