

PROCLAIMING THE LORD'S DEATH

Marc Gibson

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus shortly before His betrayal and death (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). He gave the bread and fruit of the vine so that we would remember His body and blood that was given for our salvation. Paul affirms that as often as we eat the bread and drink the cup, we "proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). The word translated "proclaim" is *katangellete* which means to "declare openly, preach." We "preach" the death of Christ openly when we partake of the Lord's Supper. When we proclaim His death, what are we declaring?

GOD LOVES EVERYONE. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Jesus went to the cross because God loves man and has made salvation and eternal life available to all who are lost in sin.

JESUS LIVES. The death of Jesus was not the end of the story. The night Jesus instituted His Supper, He promised His disciples that He would drink the fruit of the vine "new with you in My Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29). After His burial, He rose from the grave and ascended to heaven to sit and reign at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:32-36; Colossians 3:1).

JESUS IS SAVIOR. The Lord's death set forth Jesus as the Savior (Redeemer) of the world. "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). Christians proclaim Him as Savior when they proclaim His death.

JESUS IS KING. In submitting to Jesus' command to "do this in remembrance of Me," we are recognizing the authority of His word. He is our King and Judge (Colossians 1:13; John 12:48).

JESUS WILL RETURN. We proclaim the death of Jesus "till He comes." We affirm our belief that Jesus will "appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Hebrews 9:28). Think soberly on these things as you eat the bread and drink the cup. Consider carefully what you are proclaiming, and the great divine truths associated with Christ's death.