

Saturday, 5/2/26 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/3/26 at 9:00

How to Benefit from the Lord's Supper?

Part 2

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 NAS 2020

Introduction

Dear friends: This is sermon **part 2 of 2** regarding the latest brochure: **How to Benefit from the Lord's Supper**

Part 1 included:

- The words of institution: The words we speak combine the words in all four locations – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1 Corinthians.
- Old Covenant – *promise and shadow*, and New Covenant – *fulfillment in Christ*.
- Proclaiming Jesus' death until He comes: That's what we do whenever we receive the Lord's Supper.
- Benefitting from the Lord's Supper by:
 - Being repentant (contrition and faith).
 - Recognizing Jesus' body and blood.

Today, we will focus on:

- The importance of self-examination!
- Being careful not to bring judgment on ourselves!
- Possible consequences of unworthy reception!

Benefitting from the Supper – Continued

Examine Yourself: **11:28** But a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

- What does it mean to examine? To evaluate / discern / inspect. Think about a coin: Is the metal genuine, the weight proper? “The communicant is to test himself as to his fitness for the Sacrament. **He alone can do that**” (Lenski).
- What questions should we use to examine ourselves?
 1. Bible: **Do I believe the Bible is true?** (If not, read this brochure: [The Bible Is True](#) – for evidence!)
 2. Repentance: **Do I desire to turn from my sins?** (Repentance is contrition, that is, godly sorrow, and faith – *both are necessary for salvation and for receiving the supper!* If you are aware of your sins but **unwilling** to turn from them, then you are not yet ready to receive in a worthy manner. Pastor can help you.)
 3. Salvation: **Am I trusting in Jesus alone for heaven?** (Faith + works are **not** the way to heaven – see this brochure: [Why Is Faith in Jesus the Ticket to Heaven](#)).
 4. Supper: **Do I believe the supper is bread & body and wine & blood for the forgiveness of sins?** (The Bible is clear, see [Mt. 26:26-28](#); [1Co. 10:16](#); [11:27-32](#).)
 5. Unity: **Do I agree with the contents of Luther’s Small Catechism?** (Why? The Lord’s Supper is a meal of unity – with God *by believing His word* and with others *by our common confession*.)

Note: If you could not answer “Yes” to all five questions, you are not yet ready to receive. Ask the pastor, *he is glad to help you!*

Be Careful: **11:29** For the one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks **judgment** [διακρίνων – dia-kri-none] to himself if he does not *properly* recognize the body. // The KJV has “**damnation**” – which is a poor translation.

- What is the meaning of judgment? It’s **not** a decision **but** a sentence of judgment. It’s **not** damnation **but**, without repentance, it will lead to damnation.
- What does it mean to recognize the body? It “means to perceive that in the Sacrament that the body is really present and received” (Lenski).

Possible Consequences: **11:30** For this reason [that is, unworthy reception] many among you are **weak** and **sick**, and a number are **asleep**.

- Note the progression: ➔ weak ➔ sick ➔ dead. Those consequences are **temporal**, *not eternal*. What is the remedy? ***Genuine repentance!***
- In the NT: When sleep is physical death, it’s pointing to **resurrection** and **life!**
- Lenski: “The body and the blood do **not** act as a poison which makes an unworthy communicant sick or kills him. It is the sin of communing unworthily which... [causes] the penalty...”

Let Us Judge Ourselves: **11:31** But if we **judged** [active] ourselves rightly, we would **not** be **judged** [passive] [by the Lord]. // What does that mean? Do a proper self-examination! How? Use the five questions!

Good News: **11:32** But when **we** are judged, **we** are disciplined by the Lord so that **we** will not be condemned along with the world.

- **For unbelievers**, “...the judgments... in this life are advance indications of [God’s] final... wrath” (Lenski). So, openness to the Bible and repentance are critical.
- **For believers**, the judgment is discipline, so, *let us quickly and gladly repent!*

Summary of Bible / LCMS Teaching

- Real Presence: Christ’s body and blood are truly present in the Supper.
- Weakness, Illness, and Physical Death: They can occur when the real presence is rejected.
- Eternal Damnation: It will occur when a person continues in unrepentance.
- Therefore: The Sacrament should be received in repentance and faith, and with proper understanding.

Let Us Pray: **Dear Lord Jesus**, TYSM for Your finished work for our salvation! **Dear Holy Spirit**, please help us to ✦faithfully gather to receive the supper and ✦rightly examine ourselves in preparation – *so that we are sure of God’s forgiveness!*

For more info on the Lord’s Supper: See these resources:
✦brochure: [The Lord’s Supper](#), ✦brochure: [How to Benefit from the Lord’s Supper](#), ✦booklet: A Simple Explanation of Christianity, and ✦book: Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”
Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230