

**The Free Presbyterian Church in Cloverdale**

**www.cloverdalefpc.ca**

## **Who is The Lord Jesus Christ?**

**Message #6 Authorized to Save His People  
Matthew 26:26-28**

**On this night of the first communion feast the Lord Jesus brought about a fundamental change** in how God's people should worship.

For thousands of years since the Exodus when the Israelites were delivered out of Egypt the Jews kept the Passover by slaying a lamb. Now it was to be transformed by another Lamb.

**That ordinance centred in the slaying of a lamb and applying the blood.**

On the night of the Exodus the blood was put on the door posts of the people's houses so that the angel of death did not visit in judgment. God's promise was, "When I see the blood I will pass over you."

So every year the people celebrated Passover. They kept this holy ordinance to keep that wonderful deliverance from judgment in mind and also to enjoy fellowship with their God through eating the roast lamb.

**Our Lord took his disciples into an upper room to celebrate Passover.**

This was the night of our Lord's arrest before he was crucified. Judas was in the midst and he was ready to betray the Lord. Soon, in the garden of Gethsemane our Lord would be arrested, taken to the Sanhedrin and go through a night of torture before His final crucifixion.

**That night the Lord Jesus Himself was the Passover Lamb.** He was taken to be the means by which God would pass over the sins of His people.

**So to set this before His disciples,** to bring an end to all the typology and to end the OT manner of celebrating Passover the Lord instituted this way of conducting the Lord's supper.

It was to be an unbloody ordinance with two simple symbols – the cup and the bread. And since that night the Christian church has taken this command seriously as the way to remember the Lord in His death.

**All of this goes to show the authority of the Son of God.** We have been asking: WHO IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST? He is the fulfillment of the O.T. types and the true Lamb of God with all authority over His church.

In the institution of this Supper we see the Saviour's Divine Authority.

**Matt 26:26-28**

## 1. WE SEE OUR LORD'S AUTHORITY TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE IN THE MIRACLE OF HIS INCARNATION

**"This is my body."** - The whole premise of the Lord's supper is based on the humanity of the Lord Jesus.

### **[1] His body was supernatural**

We know that our Lord referred to the miraculous nature of His body as God incarnate.

No ordinary man could commence an ordinance based on His own body, but the Lord Jesus who was God incarnate.

It was the perfect, pure and totally yielded instrument of the servant who had come from heaven. God prepared that body for the Saviour's unique as the Lamb of God. That body was perfectly fitted to be the antitype, or perfect fulfillment of the lamb used in the Old Testament celebration of the Passover.

**[2] Like that O.T. lamb His body was sinless** The instruction given to the O.T. worshipper was to find a lamb that was a male without blemish.

So our Lord Jesus in perfect fulfillment of that typology possessed a perfect and sinless body.

His incarnation was the mystery of Godliness. God was manifest in the flesh. There was no sin in Him and He could not sin. This is the Saviour's impeccability. This prepared the way to become the perfect sacrifice for sin in His own body.

**[3] Unlike the O.T. Lamb His body was priceless.** The O.T. people could go out to the shepherds or traders and buy a lamb that was suitable to their family and for the Passover feast.

But who can put a price on the body of the Son God. He had no earthly father, because God was His Father. He was united to the divine nature of the second person of the Trinity. This gave honour to the human body of our Lord Jesus that are beyond our powers of description While He was truly and perfectly human, yet He was totally and utterly united to the Divine nature of the Son of God.

**The Shorter Catechism states:** ["Jesus Christ was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever."](#)

Answer to Q. 21

The application of this truth in our communion feast must be grasped.

The Lord says to us, **"This is my body."** The bread on the table represents the miraculous body of the Lord

He had the authority to institute that table on the basis that He was God Incarnate.

Our salvation is based on faith in the miraculous Humanity of the Lord Jesus.

**[4] Like the Lamb our Lord Jesus suffered unto death in His perfect body.**

Note how the Lord “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it and gave to the disciples.” Matt. Ch. 26:26

That was a lively display of the sufferings of our Lord in His sacrificial death, set before the eyes of the disciples

**Our Lord had to suffer in His body.** He had to bear the curse of sin in His own body to deliver us from sin. When we eat that bread we must do so as an act of our trust in the atoning sufferings of the Son of God. By your faith in the value and merit of Christ’s sufferings in His own supernatural body God’s saving power is applied to your soul.

**2. WE SEE OUR LORD’S AUTHORITY TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SUPERNATURAL REDEMPTION**

“This cup is my blood of the new testament” v27

Here we have that dramatic changeover from the Old Testament Covenant. No longer is there to be the shedding of blood of animals. The focus now is upon the blood of the Lord Jesus as the Covenant Redeemer of His people, whose sacrifice for sin fulfilled every O.T. type.

This cup was a display of the blood of the Lord Jesus - the fruit of the vine represented the blood.

The blood of the Lord Jesus is unique in its character because it flowed through the veins of the unique God-Man. His sinless body, gave priceless virtue, divine power and efficacy to the blood of the Lord Jesus. It has the value of divinity. It is the very life of the soul and every soul that looks to the blood of Jesus will know the power of Redemption in his soul.

“This doctrine of the Lord’s vicarious and expiatory sacrifice is one of the first principles of our most holy faith. Remove it, and you rob Christianity at once of almost all its peculiarity and glory. Remove it, and the Mosaic ritual appears not only burdensome, but unmeaning. Remove it, and the Christian system becomes a mass of inconsistency and confusion. Remove it, and you overturn the foundation of man’s hope, and involve the prospect of his eternity in the “blackness of darkness.” \_ Dr. John Brown

Note that each one of the participants in the Lord’s Supper were to drink of that cup and they were to drink all of it.

**This drinking is to partake of the gift.** The great lesson we take from the practice of communicating at the Lord’s table is that to know about the gospel of Jesus Christ is not enough. We must believe the gospel and receive the gift of Christ and His eternal life. We are called upon to be partakers

through an act of faith.

What this cup represents - the meritorious blood of the Lord Jesus, we must trust in with all our hearts. By drinking from the symbolic cup we are showing our faith in the supernatural power of Jesus' Blood.

### **3. WE SEE OUR LORD'S AUTHORITY TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE BY HIS HEADSHIP IN ELECTION**

**"shed for many" Matt 26:28, & Mark 14:24 "Shed for you" Luke 22:20.**

The Lord had a particular people in mind when he suffered in the place of sinners. He stood in their stead as their Surety for sin. As a covenant head He represented each one of His elect people when he suffered and died. These are the "many" who were given to the Son by the Father.

For each of these the Lord Jesus shed His blood and for these the price of sin is fully paid. The value and merits of Christ's redemption is sure to be applied to the hearts of His elect.

#### **Election emphasises the divine side of salvation.**

It is the sovereign plan of God. He designed the cross to include each and every one of His people. The blood atonement would be powerful enough to save everyone who is appointed to eternal life. None are left out. **That does not take away human responsibility, which is the human side of salvation**, because all men are called to press into Christ by believing the gospel.

All who come and believe will prove that they are one of God's elect. All who trust in the blood of Jesus shall prove that they are one of the "many" for whom Christ died. Have you believed? Is Christ your head?

### **4. WE SEE OUR LORD'S AUTHORITY TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE IN HIS POWER TO BESTOW SALVATION**

**"For the remission of sins"**

This is the fruit of redemption. It brings pardon to the believer's soul.

Remission is to extend deliverance from sin to set souls free.

Only the Lord Jesus has the authority to tell a man that his sins are forgiven. Luke 5:20

**"That the Son of God should become incarnate is strange; that the incarnate Son of God should suffer and die, is still stranger; but most strange of all is the fact, that the incarnate Son of God should suffer and die in the room of sinful men, to obtain their salvation." Dr. John Brown**