

## THE FOCUS OF THE LORD'S TABLE

**1 Cor 11:23-32**  
**(2 Cor 7:9-11) (2 Cor 2:2)**

**September 26, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION:** The Lord's Supper was instituted during the time frame of the Passover Meal celebrated by the Jews. God instituted the Passover when He delivered His people from their 400 years of bondage in Egypt. The meal celebrated the death angel's passing over the houses of those whose doorposts and lintels were smeared with lamb's blood (**Ex 12:1-14**). It is the holiest of Jewish feasts. To the Christian, the Passover was a foreshadow of Christ's sacrifice of His body and blood that would pay sin's debt and offer redemption for mankind. The Lord's Table reminds us of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Two of the most precious words spoken in this context is found in **1 Cor 11:24**, **"for you"**; speaks of Christ's vicarious suffering (on behalf of others). Christ died for you!

### **I. THE MANIFESTATION OF TRUTH.**

**1 Corinthians 2:2**, **"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."**

The preaching of the cross was so dominant in the early church that believers were accused of worshipping a dead man.

The basis of Paul's preaching and teaching to unbelievers was Jesus Christ, Who paid the penalty for sin on the cross.

**Galatians 6:14**, **"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."**

Paul was praising God and rejoicing in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The power of the cross changed Paul's entire view on the world.

**1 Corinthians 1:23**, **"but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness"**

The cross was the only message Paul would preach to unbelievers because it alone was the message that had the power to save all who believed.

Several words describe the **why of the cross**

Not *why*, in the sense of cause, but *why* in the sense of purpose. What did Christ achieve by His passion (suffering)? Why did He have to suffer so much? What great thing was happening on Calvary for the world?

## A. SINNERS.

**Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”**

**Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Sin is no small matter because it is not against a small Sovereign. The seriousness of an insult rises with the dignity of the One insulted.

## B. SATISFACTION.

**1 John 4:10, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”**

**“Propitiation”** – same form of this word is used in **Hebrews 9:5** to refer to the **mercy seat**. Jesus Christ became our mercy seat like the one in the Holy of Holies, where the High Priest, on the Day of Atonement, splattered the blood of the sacrificial lamb. When Christ died on the cross, He spilled His blood on behalf of others, satisfying the demands of God’s holy justice and wrath against sin.

**Propitiation** – satisfaction; the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross satisfied the demands of God’s holiness for the punishment of sin.

The **mercy seat** was the lid or cover of the ark of the place at which atonement took place. Between the Shekinah glory cloud above the ark and the tablets of law inside the ark was the blood-sprinkled cover. Blood from the sacrifice stood between God and the broken law of God.

In **Exodus 12:11b, “It is the Lord’s Passover”**

Christ is our **propitiation**. It refers to the removal of God’s wrath by providing a substitute. The substitute is provided by God Himself. The substitute, Jesus Christ, does not just cancel the wrath; He **absorbs** it and **diverts** it from us to Himself. God’s wrath is just, and it was spent, not withdrawn. **Propitiation** – wrath-absorbing. On the cross, Jesus took our punishment for our sins.

John Piper said, *“We will never stand in awe of being loved by God until we reckon with the seriousness of our sins and the justice of His wrath against us. But, when, by grace, we wake to our unworthiness, then we may look at the suffering and death of Christ and say, ‘In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His son to be the (wrath-absorbing) propitiation for our sins.’”*

The Lord’s Supper reminds us of Who died for sinners, but it is for believers.

## II. THE OBSERVATION OF TRUTH.

**2 Corinthians 7:8-11, “For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”**

### A. CONFRONTATION. 8

Repentance is essential to restoring broken relationships. Paul’s letter of rebuke had caused sorrow, **“though only for a little while.”** 8

The pleasure of sin is brief, while the sorrow it produces lasts; the sorrow of repentance is brief, while the joy it produces lasts.

### B. CONTINUATION. 9-10

**v.9** The Corinthians’ remorse was not a sorrow of self-pity, of getting caught, of despair, bitterness, wounded pride, or manipulative remorse. Their sorrow led to repentance (a change of heart and life; a turning from sin to holiness), which produced genuine change.

They were not defensive; they did not view themselves as victims or seek to justify their sinful behavior. Their sorrow was in **“a godly manner.”** according to the will of God. It was the healing, transforming sorrow for sin that God intended for them to feel, because it produces repentance.

#### **NOTE:**

**2 Corinthians 7:9, “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.”**

**“that you might suffer loss from us in nothing”** – Paul was comforted by their response. There were many blessings God could pour out on the Corinthians through his ministry. Had they remained alienated from him, they would have forfeited their blessings. Paul’s concern was not for his loss, but theirs.

According to **v.10**, no one who truly repents will ever regret it, or the sorrow that led to it.

**2 Corinthians 7:10, “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”**

True biblical repentance is not psychological, emotional, human remorse, seeking merely to relieve stress and improve one’s circumstances. The **“sorrow of the world”** – remorse, wounded pride, self-pity, unfulfilled

hopes, has no healing power, no transforming, saving, or redeeming capability. It produces guilt, shame, resentment, anguish, despair, depression, hopelessness, even death.

**“godly sorrow”** – produced by the Holy Spirit’s conviction

**NOTE THIS TRUTH:**

**Proverbs 28:13, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”**

**Psalms 32:3-4**

**“When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.” Selah**

**1 John 1:7-9, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

**2 Timothy 2:25-26, “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”**

**C. DEMONSTRATION.**

What does true repentance look like?

**2 Corinthians 7:11, “For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”**

The Corinthians demonstrated the genuineness of their repentance by their purity.

This verse lists seven characteristics of the purity of true repentance produces and it provides the clearest definition of repentance.

**1. Diligence.**

Earnestness or eagerness for righteousness. An end to indifference and complacency about their sin. Eager to make things right, to make restitution, and to restore broken relationships.

**2. Clearing of Yourselves.**

Vindication, a speech in defense, ready to clear their name, remove the stigma, rid themselves of their guilt, and prove themselves trustworthy.

**3. Indignation.**

To be indignant or to be angry. To be outraged over their sin, they were angry that they had brought shame on themselves. They hated the sin they had formerly cherished.

**4. Fear.**

They had a reverential fear and awe of God as the One Who chastens and judges. No longer wishing to disobey and dishonor Him.

**5. Vehement Desire.**

A longing or yearning to see their relationship restored.

**6. Zeal.**

A new zeal for what's right; holiness

**7. Vindication.**

Avenging of wrong. A wish to see justice done in the sense of making restitution for wrongs committed. Instead of protecting themselves, they accept the consequences of their sins.

All of their life reflected repentance.