

## THE LORD'S SUPPER - THE RECEIVING OF THE WORD

[SONG: Power in the Blood]

It can be said, and has been, based on the Truth of the Word of God, there is nothing more important for us to have than the Word of God. The Word of God is the inspired by God and then written Word that we have as our Holy Bible. As the Apostle Paul/Saul told his spiritual son Timothy, that "the Holy Scriptures, (which) are able to make you wise for **salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed-theopneustos], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**2 Timothy 3:15-17**) It is then a precious gift from God to us to know of God's redemptive plan for mankind, His love for His people, and then in what He expects of us as, not only His creation, but as children of God. Speaking of the Word of God, the Apostle John also tells us, in **John 1**, that the Word of God is not just His spoken and then written Word. He says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." (**John 1:1-3**) Who is He speaking of? "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**) Logos, the Word. When Jesus was asked by a centurion to heal his servant, he said to Jesus, "but speak the word [logos] only and my servant will be healed" (**Matthew 8:8**) Jesus marveled then at that man's faith. What he was saying by faith is what is now written for us, in God's Word, that God "has in these last days spoken to us by His Son [THE WORD], whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." (**Hebrews 1:2-4**)

The Apostle Paul, who was also called Saul, wrote 13 or 14 of what we call books of the New Testament in the Word of God. He was one person who certainly had a dramatic encounter with Christ Jesus (**Acts 9**), just as John had said, "we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". For on his way to Damascus, after Jesus had risen from the dead. "As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." From that point on, he was never the same and he later said that he

was given the ministry and calling to preach the gospel, the good news of Christ Jesus, primarily to the Gentiles, (**Galatians 2:7-8**) those outside of the Jewish faith. In his letter to the church at Corinth, he said "...I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you **received** and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast that word** which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also **received**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas [Simon Peter], then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. [they died] After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

The Apostle Peter is said to have had a primary ministry to the Jews even though his ministry also included the sharing of the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles, such as with Cornelius and his household. Nevertheless, after Jesus had risen from the dead, He appeared to His disciples/apostles and had said to them, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" (**Matthew 28:18-20**) We can read, or listen to, or have someone else read to us, of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus and all of His recorded words in the gospel accounts of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The book of Acts begins for us by speaking of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and then goes on to give a narrative of the spreading of the gospel of Christ Jesus throughout the region and beyond to the other nations, all the way now to the United States of America!

Getting back to Simon Peter, in his first letter or epistle to the Jews who had been dispersed throughout of what was called Asia Minor and is today the country of Turkey, after his greeting he says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us (again) to a living hope through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through **faith for salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your **faith**, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now

you do not see Him, yet **believing**, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **receiving** the end of your **faith**—the salvation of your souls. Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand **the sufferings of Christ** and the **glories that would follow**. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into." (**1 Peter 1:3-10**) Just as John the Baptist declared to his disciples when Jesus came toward them, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (**John 1:29**)

It is in the incredible price that Jesus paid for our sins against God, taking our sins and punishment upon Himself, that we may be reconciled to our Heavenly Father, to be His children, the children of God Almighty. It is upon each of us to believe on Jesus as being the Anointed One of God Who died on a cross for our sins and then to receive Him, the Word of God, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. "[For] as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**) That is, as Jesus said we must be born-again, born of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, to receive Him, into a newness of life—life eternal in Christ! Jesus gave of His body and His life-blood for us, yet He rose from the grave on the third day, conquering death, as well as sin and evil so that we too can overcome and have victory in Christ Jesus. Jesus gave His disciples and then us, a way to bring to remembrance the blood He shed and His body that was broken for us.

[PRAYER]

**Jesus institutes what we now call the Lord's Supper:**

"When the hour had come, He [Jesus] sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, **"With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, **"Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."** And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, **"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."** Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."** (**Luke 22:14-20**)

[PRAYER] [SONG: Victory in Jesus]