

St. Matthew AME Church
Bible Study
Wednesday, March 03, 2010
I Corinthians 11:23-29

- I. Jesus in the last night of His life on earth- knows what lies before Him
 - A. Betrayal, Arrest, Denial, Crucifixion, Death
 1. His omniscience- knows everything – speaks of impending events in His life before they happen
 - a. St. Matthew 26:47-50
 - b. St. Matthew 26:69-75
 - c. St. Matthew 27:35-50
 - d. St. Matthew 27:57-61
 - B. But before all of this occurs Jesus gathers with His disciples to celebrate the Passover Feast
 - A. Transforms Passover Feast to the Lord's Supper (Communion) and sacrament of the church
 1. Sacrament (sacred) – holy, consecrated to God
 2. Church only has two sacraments – two things that the Lord has commanded His church to continue doing
 - a. Baptism and Lord's Supper (communion) St. Matthew 28:19, I Corinthians 11:23-26
- II. Note the Difference between the two sacraments
 - A. Baptism – done just once, symbolizes a life changing event, baptism is not the ceremony, but the actual conversion, life is changed when we accept Jesus
 1. Baptism is entry to Christian life
 2. Baptism requires our death and birth to new life
 - B. Communion- we are to do often, it is continuous
 1. Represents the progression of the Christian life
 2. God knows we need it
 - a. Because of our human nature, prone to forget, trust our human nature
 - b. Reminder of what it cost God to save us, the blood and life of His Son
 - C. Elements
 1. Bread- representing the broken body of Christ – His body was tortured and beaten, but not a bone was broken – reminder that Jesus suffered physically for us
 2. Wine- represented the blood of Christ- atonement required the shedding of the blood of a perfect lamb- “Jesus the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29) Reminder that nobody could do what Jesus did for us
 3. Body and blood separated – results in death
 4. Bread – represents the essence of life
 5. Blood – life is in the blood

III. Personal Nature of the Sacrament

- A. "broken" and "shed" for "you" – given for each of us individually- Jesus gave to each of them individually
 - 1. No one can partake for us – no one can make us partake- each individual must partake on his or her own- it's our choice
 - 2. Stresses the individual nature of our relationship with Christ
 - 3. Communion doesn't take place on our knees, but in our hearts
- B. Old Covenant – "do this and live"
 - 1. Based on the law – "wages of sin is death"
- C. New Covenant – "live and do this"-
 - 1. Based on grace - "sin abounds but grace abounds more" (Romans 5:20)

IV. Joy in realizing effects

- A. We begin somber – we confess our sins
- B. We leave joyfully – "sang a hymn and went out"
 - 1. Reminded of what Christ has done for us- died for us, but rose from the dead
- D. Demands great seriousness – "let a man examine himself" (I Corinthians 11:28)
- E. Joy in looking to share the Lord's Supper in the presence of the Lord Himself (St. Matthew 26:29)