

Mark 14:22-26 - An Approved Message

Intro - Today is a doubly special day – Lords Day and Lords Supper. At CBBC we observe the Supper every other month. It is solemn celebration. It is solemn because at this supper we remember our sin and the dire consequences that are attached to it. But it is a celebration because we remember our Savior who took our sin and our punishment. He took our wages and He gave us His wages. We honor the Lord Jesus who gave Himself for us by redeeming us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. He died to conquer death so we might have life. We celebrate this victory

Let me begin with an illustration from the political realm (depressing). Political ads will end with “I am so and so and I approve this message.” The individual has signed off on it and stands behind it. The message is not some outside entity trying to influence and attach to the individual, but this is a message directly from the individual candidate. This Meal is message straight from the Saviors heart. He approves this message. HE instituted it and has commanded that we observe it often. The message in the meal is something we should take to heart every time we take the meal

A Message of Faith

- We walk by faith and not by sight. Christianity is not a religion of images and symbols
 - o Not much tangible except Baptism and the Lord's Table (mostly word)
 - o These are dramas of Faith. Faith is seen and acted out in the symbols
- God became flesh
 - o Bread – “this is My body” cup – “this is My blood”
 - o God became flesh and blood God dwelt among us- Jn. 1:14 He is here in the symbol
- The symbols are before us as food
 - o If we are to have life and sustaining life we need food
 - o Jesus' flesh is real food and His blood is real drink (John 6:53-58) Manna
- The food is offered and must be received to receive the benefit
 - o To as many as received Him....John 1:12 Christ in you the hope of glory Co. 1:27
 - o The supper is a drama of faith as we reach out and lay hold of Christ and by faith receive Him into ourselves Eph. 3:17a
- The Meal is an approve message of faith. Can you see the gospel in the symbols?
 - o Reach out and receive Him into yourself and rejoice in your God and Savior

A Message of Hope

This meal does symbolize death but it has a message of hope beyond death. The message is that death has been conquered, eternal life has been procured and our fellowship with God is secured

- When Jesus instituted this meal He promised to partake again, with us, in the kingdom
 - o Mark 14:25
- Implied promise of hope - Death could not hold Him for He is the Prince of Life
- Explicit promise is that this meal is a promise of a feast to comeWITH HIM!
- We eat in HOPE in hope of eternal life and eternal fellowship with of Redeemer
- Jesus approves this message as a sure hope for a date in the future
 - o Anyone excited about that date? Save the date...it is coming 1 Thess. 4:16-17
 - o Foretaste of glory divine (good hope-blessed hope- Titus 2:13)

A Message of Love

- A message of love is the approved message of this meal "I approve this message"
- "Greater love has no one than this to lay down one's life for his friends" John 15:13
- You may question the love of those around you but don't question Jesus' love for you
 - o He sealed His love with His broken body and spilled blood
 - o He showed His love by being our substitute
- The Father's love is seen in giving the Son - John 3:16
- The Son's love is seen in coming in the form of man God becoming flesh and dwelling here
 - o Having that body broken, and spilling that blood on our behalf
 - o He loved us to death Rom. 8:35-39
- The Meal is an approved message of love
-

A Message of Unity

When the politicians give their approved messages it has a way of dividing. Jesus' message is unifying

- This meal is not about who has more or less - we all the same all of Christ
- This meal is not who goes first or last last is first and first is last
 - o we eat at the same time
- This meal is about the unity we have in Jesus Christ we are one in HIM
 - o The world divides over: color, class and political convention
 - o The Church unites over Christ!
 - o This meal unites us in saying "WE ARE GREAT SINNERS BUT JESUS IS GREAT SAVIOR"
- With united voice and heart we partake of this solemn celebration
 - o Jesus loves me this I know....
 - o Eat with the blessed hope of the glorious appearing...
 - o By faith reach out and lay hold of Christ

Man of Sorrows fencing table discern body examine self celebrate