

The Lord's Memorial

We build memorials and monuments to commemorate great men and important events. If anyone ever deserved such a memorial, it is the Lord Jesus. Indeed, the Bible has prescribed a memorial for Jesus, but it may not be what you think.

The Bible never tells us to observe Christmas as Christ's birthday.

It never tells us to observe Easter in memory of Christ's resurrection.

The memorial prescribed by the Bible is the Lord's Supper, which was ordained by Jesus Himself. The apostle Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:

²³For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

This memorial act is a simple matter of eating and drinking. There is no great show or display required, and it can be observed anywhere in the world.

Despite its simplicity, the Lord's Supper has tremendous depth of meaning. Its foremost purpose is to commemorate Jesus. We observe the memorial to show that we remember Him always.

It is also a proclamation of the Lord's death. We proclaim that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

We observe the Lord's Supper in communion with Christ and with other Christians. A communion is a sharing in common. Communion isn't something we take, but it is something we do.

1 Corinthians 10:16 – Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

This communion is observed in the assembly of the Lord's church. According to the pattern seen in the early church (Acts 2:42; 20:7), modern Christians gather together on the first day of the week to break bread in memory of Jesus.

Observance of the Lord's Supper is to be done with reverence and self-examination.

1 Corinthians 11:27-28 – ²⁷Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

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Therefore, let us honor the memory of Jesus not as men have devised but as the Lord Himself directed. He certainly deserves our commemoration.