

Good morning! Yesterday we began to consider the Lord's Supper. Nearly all Christian churches have some kind of idea about the nature of this practice, but I find that this doesn't translate to the people in the congregation. Lacking a biblical understanding then, many of us are content to just get in line and try not to make a mistake! After all, there are many ways to actually partake. My own church has four weekly services with three different methods of distribution. Yesterday we read the "words of institution" written by Paul to the church at Corinth. In his remarks he quotes Jesus and then says that when we take communion we "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." The Lord's Supper then has two parts: it is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus and it is our message to the world. This morning, let's consider something else that Jesus said about the Lord's Supper as we read Matthew's account together:

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

This passage in Matthew's account and differs slightly from Paul's remarks. First we read that Jesus said grace over the bread and over the wine before distributing them. Jesus then tells the disciples that the bread and wine are His body and His blood. After this, we come to a remark that wasn't in Paul's version. Let's read it together: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." This is really important! When we receive the body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper we have forgiveness of our sins. Have you ever sensed this yourself? You may not have known this passage or thought about it very much, and yet when you received communion you knew something had happened, some supernatural transaction had taken place between God and you. I often have, and you probably have, too. You have received the bread and wine and know that somehow, in some mysterious way, you have been doing business with God. I have been in some very dry, liturgical services but then, during the

Lord's Supper; I encountered God in a supernatural way. Jesus says that in receiving the Lord's Supper we receive forgiveness of sins. Did you know that God wants to forgive our sins? Well, He does...it's one of the best things about Him!