

The Lord's Supper or The Last Supper

It is not uncommon to hear the Lord's Supper referred to as "The Last Supper". This name has been given to this memorial feast not by the word of God but by men. The reason this feast is often referred to in this way is because many suppose that this was Jesus' last meal with the disciples who faithfully followed Him.

But when I read my Bible, I see that this was only the first of many suppers that Jesus would share with His people. In calling this "The Last Supper" we automatically have to focus on the physical nature of Christ and assume that since He was going to die, that this would be His last earthly meal. But when we call this "The Lord's Supper" this is not only biblical (I Cor. 11:20), but it also has so much more hope in looking to the resurrected Lord and His willingness to join us as we partake of these emblems again in His kingdom. If this is the supper of the Lord, and we understand what Jesus taught about it, then there is no way that we can assume that this is any kind of final meal or last supper. Jesus said that He would partake of it again, even while He faced His death on the cross. This means that Jesus knew before He died that He would live again. The promise was to drink the cup again in the kingdom with His people. Therefore, there is no "Last Supper" as long as God's people are assembling as His church and are partaking of these emblems in memory of Jesus. Every generation of Christians that keep this memorial feast on the first day of the week are inviting the Lord to join them as they surround the table and eat the bread and drink of the fruit of the vine. Every time we partake of this feast, it is never "The Last Supper" but it is "The Lord's Supper"

To show how absurd it is to call what we are doing "The Last Supper", let us consider that Jesus not only ate again with His disciples on the earth when he made breakfast for them on the beach after His resurrection (John 21), and on other occasions when He broke bread with those on the road with Him, but that we all anticipate, even beyond our weekly communion, a heavenly banquet where the sustenance of God is abundant and the fellowship that we have with the Lord is unending. As a Christian there is no "Last Supper". God will give us our daily bread, he will feast with us in this memorial bread, and one day we will be with the one who said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:48). When we partake of the Lord's Supper we proclaim the Lord's death, until when..."until He comes". Take this supper in anticipation of the many more to come, whether on earth with those seeking to go to heaven or with those assembled there.

At this time we are going to focus on the Lord who now gathers with us in this time of communion. Remember everything that the Lord has done for us and all that He is going to do as our King and Savior.