

Eucharist

([Ex 16:11-21](#), [1 Cor 10:1-17](#), [John 6:51-59](#))

The Eucharist is the first among the names for [Holy Communion](#). The term comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means "thanksgiving." Since Jesus gave thanks at the institution of the Last supper it has become customary to translate Eucharist as giving thanks. As Protestants we are bound to observe two Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. These are called sacraments of grace. By sacrament we mean an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible [Grace](#). These make the invisible grace of God visible. These are also called the Commandments of Lord Jesus. They remind us always the manifold grace of God. These are also called the vehicles of Grace. Since they point to something beyond themselves, they are also called signs. We become one with Christ by our Baptism and live in Him by feeding on Jesus Christ. These two correspond to circumcision and Passover in the Old Testament.

Some people participate in them as rituals without knowing why we do what we do. Many observe these just for getting their marriage performed in a church. Some pastors also give whoever asks for them without warning them of the consequences. We should never forget that those who participate in them thoughtlessly bring judgment onto themselves. Those who administer these have the responsibility of warning those who

participate. Therefore no one should participate in an unworthy manner ([1 Cor 11:27,29](#)).

No one can understand spiritual truths about the sacraments like the Jews in today's gospel lesson till they are born again by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal savior .Just like food is necessary for our living; to live spiritually also we need food. The food which we have to take in order to live spiritually is Jesus Christ the incarnate word. In today's Old Testament lesson we find God giving manna from heaven to the people of Israel. For us He gave Jesus Christ. Just like the Israelites who have to gather Manna daily and eat we too have to gather heavenly manna daily which is the word of God. It means we need to be in continuous fellowship with God through His word. Without this i.e. without the fear and reverence to God if we simply take the bread and wine, God is warning us that we too may perish without reaching our heavenly destination like the many Israelites who died in the wilderness without reaching Canaan. This is today's epistle lesson. Therefore it is not just enough to be baptized and partake in the Holy Communion. We need to live pleasing God . Otherwise we too may perish .This is the main warning in today's scripture lessons.

The Gospel lesson: [John 6:51-59](#)

Let us accept Jesus Christ and inherit eternal life.

After reporting how Jesus fed 5000 miraculously, John explains how one can inherit eternal life. Jesus taught the very religious Jews of His time that the work of God which they had to do is believe in Him. He is teaching the same thing to us today. He is making it very clear that spending time outside the Church and participate in Lord's Table on Sundays is not God's work. The God of grace is giving yet another opportunity for us to change our attitude; Sacraments are the signs that always remind us the grace of the eternal God.

Nobody can go to heaven by saying Lord, Lord. Only those who do the will of God will go to heaven ([Mat 7:21](#)). Today God is revealing His will that we have to do in order to go to heaven in 40th verse of this chapter. We have to memorize this verse. Therefore those who want to go to heaven, first of all they should see Jesus who appears when we open the Bible and believe that Jesus died in their place on the cross taking their punishment and curse in order to make them righteous. The reason we are not able to see Jesus in the Bible is our sin which causes blindness to our eyes. The day we pray, "Lord, forgive my sins and open my eyes," He will open our eyes .Then only we can see Him in the Bible and understand His teaching. 27 years ago He opened my eyes. The Jews in this chapter came seeking Jesus and wanted to follow Jesus anticipating some personal gain from Him. Then He told them who He was and what it meant to follow Him .But they didn't understand His teaching because they did not obey His

word to repent for their sins. Therefore they did not understand what it meant to eat His flesh and drink His blood.

Those who follow Jesus for their selfish gain can never understand His teaching . Jesus is the word of God that came from heaven. He is the heavenly manna that was showered for us from heaven. Jesus is the word that came from the mouth of God by which we live ([Matthew 4:4](#)). We need to gather this heavenly manna daily and eat .This is today's Old Testament lesson.

The Old Testament lesson: [Exodus 16:11-21](#)

Let us live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

Life is a journey. From the beginning to the end it is only the grace of God that sees us through. It is by His manifold Grace God redeemed His people from the bondage of Egypt. The Passover they observed points to Jesus who was killed as our Passover lamb. It is not just enough to come out of Egypt. We need to reach the Promised Land, Canaan. It was God who had provided everything that was needed for the journey. He gave Manna to Israelites for their food during the journey. But they all perished without reaching the Promised Land because of their disobedience. God is warning us in today's epistle lesson not to be like them and loose our heavenly inheritance.

The Epistle lesson: [1 Cor 10:1-17](#)

Let us defeat our enemies, the flesh, the world and the devil and win the world with the Gospel!

Christian life begins when we are redeemed from the bondage of sin by believing in our passover lamb Jesus Christ. By baptism we become the consecrated New Covenant people of God. Here we must clearly understand the two meanings of Baptism. One is the literal meaning of being dipped into. The other is the figurative meaning 'to be identified with'. The day we confess our sins and ask Jesus to come into our hearts as our savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit unites us with Jesus in His death and resurrection and incorporates us into or identifies us with the body of Christ the church. The water baptism is the outward sign of the inner Holy Spirit baptism. In this portion Paul explained this truth by comparing baptism with the Israelites' experience of crossing of the red sea. Baptism doesn't guarantee our passage into the promised land i.e. heaven because many who had crossed the red sea perished in the wilderness. In the same way today God is warning us that we too may perish if we don't please God though we may have been baptized. The matter is not whether we are baptized or not because for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation ([Gal 6:15](#)). That is, what matters is our transformation into Christ likeness by pleasing God. But Satan will always do everything to see that we don't please God. The

weapon we have to resist and defeat him is the word of God. Paul is telling us that in the Old Testament these things happened as examples and were written down for our admonition ([1 Cor 10:9](#)).

If we recognize the fact that all the Israelites who had been redeemed from Egypt were the soldiers of God we understand that Christian life is a fight ([Ex 13:18](#), [Ezekiel 37:10](#)). In this fight the primary weapon is the word of God. To overcome the temptations we should learn to find ways that God shows in His word to escape and resist them ([1 Cor 10:13](#)).

Every time we partake in the Holy Communion we should always remember our responsibility of proclaiming the Lord's death till He comes ([1 Cor 11:26](#)). If we do, then we will know what kind of combat we are in. Like Paul all of us have to fight this good fight to release those who are held as captives by Satan. May this truth that we are soldiers of God in this great battle with the devil to win the world from the devil, dawn on all of us today and help us to be disciplined in our spiritual lives like soldiers ! May God help us! Amen.

Life Application:

1. We don't go to heaven just by being baptized and take in the Holy Communion. All those who are born again by accepting Jesus Christ alone will go to heaven.

2. Jesus our living bread. To feed on Him means to live according to His word.
3. Collecting daily Manna means our time with the Bible in meditating on His word. Let us know how to use the sword of the word in the battle with the devil. Let us spend more time with the Bible.

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