

Winter Quarter 2025-2026
Unit III - The Church and Its Teachings

“Baptism and the Lord’s Supper”

February 8, 2026

THE SETTING

Within the Christian Community two major activities are practiced which reflect and affirm ones belief in and commitment to Jesus as the Son of God and Lord and Savior of the people of God – Baptism and the Lord’s Supper! Our lesson text references address some biblical principles concerning those two events.

The reference about Baptism cite Matthew’s account of the Baptism of Jesus. It is then supported by Jesus’ Directive to the Disciples to confirm those who have made their commitment TO Jesus by baptizing them with specific instructions to validate their commitment.

The Lord’s Supper reference cite Paul’s account of the Lord’s revelation to him about the Lord’s Supper. Each reference expresses certain realities to be followed and confirmed.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

This passage cites the event when Jesus presented himself to John to be baptized. Consistent with John’s ministry of “preparing the way” for the coming of the Messiah, John’s appeal had a two-fold purpose. First to call the Jews to repentance of their sins in preparation for the “coming” of the One whom God would send who would bestow on them the Spirit of God.

¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

Keep in mind that John knew his ministerial purpose. He was to be the “forerunner” of Jesus’ Ministry. Yet, even in his “forerunner” purpose, John recognized that he needed to experience that “spiritual cleansing” himself.

¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Jesus’ response challenged John to fulfil his “forerunner” function. Especially since John’s salvation was contingent upon Jesus fulfilling His purpose on Earth. In other words, the “water baptism” was to prepare them for a future “spiritual baptism” with the Holy Ghost. The “water baptism” would symbolize the “cleansing of the body” from sin. The “Holy Ghost baptism” would actualize the “cleansing of the spirit” from sin.

Remember also that the “spiritual cleansing” of Man required the Death of Jesus on the Cross! In reality Jesus was telling John not to “jump the gun” on God’s Plan of Salvation.

¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Complying with Jesus' instructions, John baptized Jesus, and God's affirmation of the "spiritual cleansing process" was underway. Setting the example for Sinful Man, Jesus submitted Himself to the symbolizing process of "cleansing of the body" from sin. Then, when the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, God Himself AFFIRMED Jesus as His Son, and also His Son's Salvation Purpose!

Notice that it was Jesus Who "SAW the Spirit of God descending like a dove"! Whether or not anyone else saw the "descent" of the Holy Spirit, Jesus seeing Him was a Trilateral Affirmation of God's Plan of Salvation for sinful Man! This was also a validation of God confirming His Covenant Agreement with Man.

The appearance of the Holy Spirit as a "dove" is most significant. Recall that, after the Flood, it was the appearance of a "dove" which indicated that the punishment for mankind's sinfulness on Earth had been completed. Jesus viewing the Holy Spirit "descending" in the manner of a "dove" was reassurance that God's Salvation Plan was being realized in Him!

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

A major component of the great Commission is the act of "teaching and baptizing" those from every ethnic group in the world who have accepted Jesus as their Christ, their Savior. Notice that the "teaching" precedes, and also follows, the "baptizing" process. Without such, the "baptizing" component - the "cleansing by the word" component - may easily become incomplete!

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

It is one thing to know what Jesus told us to do. It's another to actually DO what he said to do! That's why the "teaching" of the Word process is an ongoing process. The effectiveness of that "ongoing process" is realized in on the Day of Pentecost after Peter's explanation of the scriptures concerning Jesus, and they "*continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine*".

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

We must recall that the Believers in Corinth had been exposed for years with various forms of immorality in the worship of other idol gods in that area. This passage of scripture is part of Paul's admonition to the saints in Corinth in reference to their behavior and appearances in their process and procedures in worshipping God. Paul affirmed that what he was sharing with them came from the Lord Himself! He then began to clarify the principles and process by which the Lord's Supper are to be observed.

The reference to Jesus' "betrayal" heightens the validity of the sincerity of those participating in the Lord's Supper. Judas was one of the Twelve who also shared in this Worship event.

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

It is significant to notice that the "Lord's Supper" actually followed their regular observance of the Jewish Passover Meal. The bread was "unleavened". Symbolically, the bread had been made without leaven (yeast). The "puffing up" capacity of leaven is also symbolic of the effects that sin has in a person's life. Jesus, as the Sinless One, the "Bread of life", uses the unleavened bread to symbolize His Body. The "broken for you" reference points to His Body being pierced by thorns and spear in substitution for those for whom He was about to die.

The "cup" was in reference to the wine that was part of the Passover meal, during which a lamb would be slain, and the blood of that lamb would be collected in a container and offered upon the Altar for the sins of the people. Jesus identified the "Cup" in reference to "His Blood" being shed in remission of the sins of God's People. Partaking of the "Cup" meant that they were accepting the Blood of Jesus in substitution of and for their blood in the remission of their sins! Jesus is to be REMEMBERED as the One who Could and Did Die in Our Place!

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

In substitution of the Passover of the Jews, the Lord's Supper became the symbolic expression of believing and accepting Jesus' Death in place of OUR respective deaths for our sins!

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Paul cautions those who participate in the Lord's Supper in a manner disrespectful of its purpose. This is really what the idea of "eating and drinking unworthily" means!

No one is "worthy" of God's forgiveness of their sins! This is what God's Grace - God's unmerited favor" is all about! Thus going through the motions, and disrespecting its meaning and purpose makes ones actions "unworthy"! False actions and purposes indicates and results in a false relationship with Christ Jesus! Their actions are in vain, and indicate a false relationship with God and Christ! Thus they join the crowd of those who misjudged and crucified Jesus!

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Paul then admonishes every participant in the Lord's Supper - the ordinance which affirms Jesus Death in behalf of those who believe in and accept Him as their Savior - the One who Died in Their Place! Such actions result in self-incrimination and spiritual consequences.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. How is the purpose and prerequisites for Baptism explained for the Recipients?
2. What prerequisites does your Church require of those who are to be Baptized?
3. What type(s) of “post-natal care” does your Church provide for your “new converts”?
4. What principles of “self-examination” does your Church suggest for those persons serving the Lord’s Supper?
5. What principles of “self-examination” does your Church suggest for those persons receiving the Lord’s Supper?
6. How are the elements of the Lord’s Supper explained for the Recipients?
7. How does your Church explain the idea of a Person taking the Lord’s Supper “unworthily”?

S.S. Lesson Word Search Clues

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ACROSS

- A-1 When Jesus was baptized, he went straightway out of the _____.
- A-6 The word “_____” means with the wrong attitude and/or purpose.
- B-2 Jesus promised to be with His Disciples unto the _____ of the world.
- B-4 Jesus saw the Holy Spirit _____ like a dove.
- B-14 _____ came to the Jordan River area from Galilee.
- C-2 Jesus commanded His Disciples to _____ all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- C-6 Jesus commanded His Disciples to teach all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and _____ Ghost.
- C-10 Jesus commanded His Disciples to _____ all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy _____.
- D-6 Paul delivered to the saints at Corinth that _____ he had received from the Lord.
- D-13 Jesus was the Son in _____ God was well pleased.
- E-6 The word “_____” in this verse means “coming upon”.
- F-6 When Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were _____ to Him.
- F-12 Eating the _____ and drinking the cup “shews” the Lord’s death.
- G-6 _____ eats of the bread and drinks of the cup unworthily is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- H-5 Jesus saw the Holy Spirit descending like a _____.
- H-9 Eating of the bread and drinking of the cup unworthily makes one _____ of the body and blood of the Lord.
- I-4 Jesus told His Disciples that He would _____ be with them.
- I-10 The word “_____” in this verse means to “finish eating”.
- J-2 The Disciples were told to eat the bread and to drink the cup in _____ of Jesus.
- J-13 Jesus _____ the “left-over” bread from the Passover to institute the Lord’s Supper.
- K-4 The word “_____” in this verse means to do a “thorough search of the evidence” concerning something or someone.
- K-12 In reference to the Lord’s Supper, we are to do _____ in remembrance of Jesus’ suffering and death in our place.
- K-15 Believers are to eat of the Bread and drink of the Cup in the _____ manner of Jesus.
- L-1 Eating and drinking the Lord’s Supper unworthily brings _____ upon a person.

- L-10 Jesus came to the Jordan River from _____.
- M-1 The word "_____" in this verse means "until".
- M-6 Believers are to observe the Lord's Supper until Jesus _____ back.
- M-14 _____ was baptizing in the Jordan River.
- N-5 God said that Jesus is His beloved Son, in _____ He is well pleased.
- N-10 Jesus _____ the bread after He had given thanks for it.
- N-16 The word "_____" in this verse means "often".
- O-2 Jesus promised His Disciples that He would be with them to the end of the _____.
- O-7 Jesus came to the _____ River area from Galilee.
- O-14 A _____ from heaven said that Jesus was His beloved Son.
- P-1 The word "_____" in this verse means "immediately".
- P-14 Jesus was betrayed on the same _____ of the Lord's Supper.
- Q-4 The Disciples were to teach whatever Jesus had _____ them.
- Q-12 Eating the Bread and drinking the Cup shows a person's observance of the _____ of Christ until he comes again.
- R-5 A person who eateth and _____ the Lord's Supper unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself because he/she is not properly discerning the Body of the Lord.
- S-4 God was well _____ with Jesus.
- S-11 John said to Jesus, "I have need to be baptized of _____.
- S-15 John said to Jesus, "I _____ need to be baptized of thee.
- T-3 Jesus said His _____ was broken for those who believe in Him.
- T-11 Believers of Jesus must _____ whatsoever they have been taught about Him.
- U-4 The _____ represents the broken and sinless Body of Jesus.
- U-8 Believers of Jesus must observe _____ what they have been taught about Him.
- V-1 Jesus told His Disciples that He would be with them until the end of the _____.
- V-6 John told the Jesus that he had _____ to be baptized of Him.
- V-10 Jesus said that His Disciples should be _____ the Believers to observe whatever He had commanded them to do.
- W-1 The Disciples were also to be _____ the Believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- W-11 _____ John, Jesus told him, "Suffer it to be so."
- DOWN
- 1-D Paul said that he _____ to them what he had received of Jesus Christ about the Lord's Supper.

- 1-M In reference to the Bread, Jesus said that _____ is my body.
- 1-S The word "_____" in this verse means "showed".
- 2-E Baptism should be done in the name of the _____, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- 2-P Jesus brake the bread after He had given _____.
- 3-D John _____ Jesus.
- 3-N Eating the Lord's Supper unworthily makes one guilty of the body and blood of the _____."
- 4-E The word "_____" in this verse means "covenant".
- 4-Q The "_____" refers to the shed blood of Jesus as the sin-debt payment for Man's sins.
- 5-A Paul said that he delivered to them what he had _____ from the Lord Jesus.
- 5-R The "cup" is the new testament in Jesus' _____.
- 10-A John baptizing Jesus was to fulfill all _____.
- 11K Jesus was _____ on the same night of the Lord's Supper.
- 12-B Jesus said that He saw the Spirit of ____ descending like a dove.
- 13-J Jesus brake the bread after He had given _____.
- 14-C John told Jesus, "I need to be baptized of _____."
- 15-C Jesus is God's beloved _____.
- 15-E Baptized should be in the _____ of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- 16-B Jesus took the _____ manner as He did the bread."
- 16-F As often as you eat and _____ of the cup you show Christ's suffering.
- 16-Q A voice was heard from _____ saying, "This is my beloved Son."
- 17-A The word "_____" means "allowed" or "permitted".
- 17-J The word "_____" means "let it be so".
- 18-B Jesus saw the _____ of God descending like a dove.
- 18-G Jesus told His Disciples to _____ the bread.
- 18-L Jesus told His Disciples to _____ the bread.

DOWN (Continued)

- 18-S Jesus told His Disciples that he would always be with them, even to the _____ of the world.
- 19-A The word "_____" means "ethnic groups".
- 19-H The word "_____" means "to bring to completion".
- 19-N The word "_____" means "distinguishing the differences between things".