**Christian Worship (2), the Lord’s Supper**

By Victor Beshir

##### In the last article, the worship that the Lord Jesus Christ left for the Church was discussed. He taught the *Lord’s Prayer* to the Apostles, and commanded them to use it. From that time until now, this prayer has been used by Christians in all their prayers both individually and as a Church.

##### Establishing the Main Christian Worship:

##### The Lord Jesus Christ Himself also established the main worship of the New Testament church. Please read carefully the following passages. Note how they allow one to become familiar with this type of worship, to know its reality, and to recognize its necessity as well as its deep spiritual benefits:

##### *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and* *offered it* *to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins*.”” (Matthew 26:26*,27).*

##### If the Lord clearly declared, “this is my body,” “This is my blood”, then there is room neither for questioning His saying nor considering His offer as mere symbols.

##### Why Did He Offer This Kind of Worship?

##### Giving Life to the world:

##### The gospel recorded the dialogue between Jesus and the Jew that followed His above declaration, as follows:

##### Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, *‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*’“

##### Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6: 30-35).

##### Giving Eternal Life:

##### Then Jesus revealed the mystery of this bread, saying:

##### “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world” (John 6:48-51).

##### There Is No Life Except Through It:

##### The gospel recorded how difficult it was for the Jews to accept eating Jesus’ flesh. Then Jesus confirmed that the bread is His flesh and it is the only source of life:

##### The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?” Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him “(John 6:52-57).

##### Therefore, God ordained the “Lord’s Supper”—also known as the “Last Supper,” the “Eucharist” as the early Church” called it, or “Divine Liturgy,” as it is called by the Orthodox Church—as the main worship since in it we obtain life, eternal life, and abiding in Him. Now, you understand why the relatively new churches who neglect the Lord’s Supper are suffering dramatically. Their members long for a watering spirituality and fulfilling worship that they cannot find in those churches.

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##### Not everyone accepted Jesus’ offer including some of His disciples, a few of which left Him because of the truth He spoke. However, those who stayed with Him believed in His offer, His body and His blood, practiced it, and handed it down to future generations. Sadly, there are many Protestant (Evangelical) churches and non-denominational churches following the same path of the Jews and the disciples who refused to believe:

##### Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this,* said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”...From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more (John 6:60, 66).

##### St. Paul Talks About the Institution of the Lord’s Supper:

##### The following verses written by St. Paul clearly explain the institution of the Lord’s Supper and bear witness to using it as the main worship of the church during the Apostolic Age. St. Paul also talked about some people being “guilty of the body and blood of the Lord,” and warned them. Considering those people guilty is an indication of St. Paul’s faith, and all members of the early church with him, that the offer of the Lord’s Supper are truly the body and blood of the Lord.

##### 1- The Institution:

##### For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

##### 2- Discerning the Lord’s Body:

##### Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world (1Corinthians 11:27-32).

##### (*To be continued)*