

# Remember the Cross

The Lord Jesus Christ knew beforehand where His path was leading. As the excitement about Jesus rose and fell, He foretold the twelve, "*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.*" (Matthew 20:18-19). He was fully aware of His approaching death. He came to lay down His life for others (John 10:11). He came to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Prior to the betrayal in the garden, the trials throughout the night and death by crucifixion, Jesus met with the apostles in an upper room to observe the Passover according to the old law (Luke 22:13-15). While they were eating, the Lord took unleavened bread, blessed it and then commanded them, "*Take, eat; this is My body.*" Doing likewise with a cup, He instructed, "*Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" (Matthew 26:26-29). After instituting His own memorial supper, they sang a hymn and went to the garden of Gethsemane (v. 30).

Clearly, the commemoration of the body and blood of Jesus was important to Him. Before setting His foot on that road which led to Golgotha, our Lord took the time and the energy to teach the apostles the significance of eating the bread and drinking the cup. A pattern to be observed was being set before them.

The apostle Paul received the same revelation and taught it to Christians (I Corinthians 11:23-25). The partaking of the emblems which Jesus specified is to be a remembering of Him. This sanctified tradition proclaims "*the Lord's death till He comes*" (v. 26). Failure to do so properly is to become guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (v. 27). The Lord's Supper is a serious matter – not an empty ritual. "*Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup*" (v. 28).

New Testament Christians "*continued steadfastly*" in the breaking of this bread (Acts 2:42). They learned this practice from the apostles' teaching. The opportunity and privilege to remember the crucifixion of God's Son was a regular practice. Disciples assembled together on the first day of the week to commune with the body and blood of Christ (Acts 20:7), inferring a weekly observance among the faithful and diligent.