

OUTLINE TWO
THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE LORD
(2)

I. The significances of the bread and the cup, both of which are symbols:

- A. The bread signifies the Lord's physical body that He gave for us on the cross in order to impart His life into us. The bread also signifies the Lord's mystical Body constituted of many members regenerated through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, having been enlivened with the Triune God's life and brought into an organic union with the Triune God.
- B. The cup signifies the blood that He shed for us on the cross in order to redeem us so that our sins might be forgiven.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.

6:34 They said therefore to Him, Lord, give us this bread always.

6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

C. Bread in the Scriptures signifies **life:**

- 1. In John 6:33-35 Christ said that He is the bread of life that gives life to the world.
- 2. In John 6:48 Christ said again, "I am the bread of life"; the bread of life refers to the nature of the bread, which is life.
- 3. When we see or receive the bread that we break, we should consider how the Lord became flesh for us, how He died for us in the flesh, and how His body was broken for us and given to us that we may have His life.
- 4. This is the meaning related to eating the Lord's supper; the Lord's body being broken to be given as bread to us means that He gave His body for us that we may have His life.

1 Corinthians 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

D. Bread in the Scriptures also signifies **corporateness:**

- 1. In 1 Corinthians 10:17 the bread is a symbol of an organic composition—a corporate body: "For we who are many are one bread, one Body."
- 2. The bread in this aspect signifies something that issued from the Lord in resurrection. Before His death, the Lord Jesus was a single grain of wheat—John 12:24. But what issued out of His death in resurrection was much fruit, a corporate entity, a loaf, the bread, a corporate Body—1 Cor. 10:17.
- 3. All the believers, the grains (John 12:24), are ground into fine flour and then blended together to form one loaf (1 Cor. 10:17). In the one loaf, we see that all the children of God are one.
- 4. On the one hand, we remember the Lord and enjoy Him by receiving the body which He gave for us on the cross in His death; on the other hand, we enjoy the mystical Body which He produced through His resurrection from the dead by fellowshiping with all the saints in this mystical Body and by testifying of the oneness of this mystical Body.
- 5. This is the meaning related to attending the Lord's table; the bread refers to the Lord's corporate Body, which He constituted with all the regenerated saints through His resurrection from the dead.