

**From the Nugget series (#225) by Elder Ralph Harris**

*"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come" (I Cor. 11:26).*

It is interesting to observe that the Lord nowhere instructed anyone to commemorate His *birth*, yet the world makes the supposed remembrance of that occasion the most celebrated time of the year. On the other hand, He *did* institute an ordinance that commemorates His *death*, and the world makes little of it. And generally when they do pretend to observe it they refuse to do so according to the instructions He gave His disciples. They substitute crackers for unleavened bread, and grape juice for fermented wine. But crackers and grape juice were not used in the Jewish Passover supper. Bread and wine were the substances used in *that* supper and these were the substances Christ used in instituting *His* supper. Those Corinthians mentioned in I Cor. 11:21 did not get drunk on grape juice.

Our text tells us that someone will be observing this ordinance of Christ "till He come." Many people live in constant fear of some cataclysmic event prematurely bringing an end to this earth. I suppose all of us have known of those who predict the end of the world and then when the predicted date draws near they flee to the mountains and hide, as though that would do them any good. But this world will not end until Christ returns, and until that time there will be a faithful remnant still keeping the ordinance of the Lord's supper and thus "showing His death" in the use of those emblematic substances that He has authorized.

We of course rejoice in the fact that Christ was born into this world, but the end for which He came was to suffer, bleed and die for His people. They were not reconciled to God by the *birth* of Christ, but by His *death* (See Rom. 5:10, Col. 1:21-22). And it was by His resurrection that He became "the first fruits of them that slept" (I Cor. 15:20). When we partake of His supper we express our faith in the efficacy of His shed blood and broken body. We declare our confidence that His death accomplished everything it was designed to achieve and that ultimately every heir of promise will live with Him in Glory. It is good to know that He will always have His faithful followers, still showing His death, *till He come*. ---Elder Ralph Harris