

## II Corinthians 13; Lord's Day 30

### PROPER OBSERVANCE OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

- I. A spiritual presence.
  - A. We unashamedly reject Rome's concept of Christ's presence in their Mass as being physical.
    - 1. The church of Rome believes Jesus is physically present in the elements – transubstantiation.
    - 2. This means that Jesus is repeatedly sacrificed every time the bread is broken and the wine poured.
    - 3. And Rome's Mass is idolatry because they worship the elements trusting in a piece of bread to confer grace.
  - B. The Biblical and Reformed understanding of Christ's presence in the Supper is that He is present only in a spiritual sense.
    - 1. First, Jesus is locally in heaven, no longer on the earth.
    - 2. Thus Christ can be only represented in the Supper in a spiritual sense. The elements portray Jesus in a sacramental sense.
  - C. We are to show the Lord's death (as the only and perfectly sufficient way to salvation) till He come (I Cor. 11:26).
- II. The only way to partake is sincerely, which requires self-examination (I Cor. 11:28; 13:5).
  - A. It is wrong to partake insincerely.
  - B. Self-examination helps the child of God deal with sins in his life and it is a means to personal, spiritual growth.
    - 1. Proper examination of self must be done in the light of God's Word (Ps. 139:23,24).
    - 2. Proper receiving and eating of the elements requires a soul seeking and finding forgiveness in Jesus.
  - C. When we sincerely partake by faith, then blessings result for the believers and for the church.
- III. The Table of the Lord must be guarded or restricted.
  - A. The church has a responsibility to watch over the sacraments.
  - B. This calls for "close communion." Close" communion means that the elders (representing the Lord) assure the congregation that they have a personal knowledge of those who partake that we all have a closeness in belief and walk.