



## and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

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*a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter*

For me, Easter Sunday is the most exciting day of the year. This past Easter Sunday proved to be no exception. After a very exciting and fulfilling morning service at The Smoky Mountain Cowboy Church, my family and I headed to Gatlinburg for what I hope will become an annual tradition, a visit to Christus Gardens. What a great way to celebrate the life of Christ on Easter. The presentation there is such a beautiful expression of His life from birth to ascension. If you have never visited Christus Gardens, let me encourage you to spend some time there and I promise you'll be inspired.

We celebrated the Lord's Supper at SMCC Easter morning. I'm not so sure that we could have had a more tender expression of worship than the act of sharing in His body and blood in remembrance of Christ. He gave us instructions as to this act of worship in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 23:

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

It is very easy to ritualize communion and gloss over the very meaningful roots of this experience. This happened just hours before Judas gives Him up to the Roman guards who initiated the horrific destruction of His body. Now, I don't know about you, but if I knew what I was about to experience like that, there is no way I could eat a bite.

Notice in the scripture it says that He took the bread and that He broke it. He didn't have a fresh loaf of Sunbeam bread. The bread he "broke" had to be broken, not just pulled apart. Passover ran concurrent with the "Feast Of Unleaven Bread", which is a feast that celebrates the deliverance of God's people from Egypt. Unleaven bread is made without yeast as was prescribed by Jewish law. Unleaven bread is tough and hard. If you have ever had a "motzah", it is some what like a giant square combination of a Triscuit and a saltine cracker. Christ had to "break" the bread apart to share it with the disciples. He told them "this in My body". There is a great message here. Christ's body had to be "broken", represented by the unleaven bread, in order to share it with his disciples, and His physical body had to be broken to be shared with a world dying in sin. His body was broken for you and I. Perhaps the phrase, "let's break bread together" will have a different meaning for you.

Then notice that it says that "after supper" he lifted the cup of wine and said. "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." Notice that time separated the consumption of the body/bread and the cup/blood. This suppertime was a time of fellowship. The disciples knew what was about to happen and their conversation must have been focused on the

impending threat to Christ. There had to have been considerable anguish in the mood of the gathering. Still, I can't imagine even being able to eat anything at all. My stomach would have been tied in knots.

Now, the Word tells us that wine is good for the stomach, and doctors tell us it is good for the circulatory system. Wine has an immediate effect on the body. I feel certain that the wine that Jesus offered his disciples was the very best possible. After all, He turned water into the best of wine at a wedding feast where the response was "Why did you save the best wine for last?". Wine has a positive effect on the blood of an individual and circulates through the body in a matter of seconds. Jesus was about to pour His best wine into the world. His blood would cover the ground, flowing from His veins down the cross to the earth....the ENTIRE earth!

This outpouring of the new wine of salvation, the creation a new covenant with the world, required a "new wineskin". The old covenant was fulfilled in His sacrifice on the cross. Matthew 9 tells us why.

"Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Christ's blood has been poured into a new wineskin....You and me. We are preserved In Christ.

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

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