

1 Corinthians 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Analysis

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come—Ὅσάκις γὰρ ἐὰν ἐσθίητε... καὶ πίνετε (as often as you eat... and drink)—Paul emphasizes regularity without mandating frequency. Each celebration is proclamation: καταγγέλλετε (katangellō, you proclaim/announce). The Table is kerygmatic—it preaches the gospel.

Ye do shew the Lord's death—the Table is visual sermon. Τὸν θάνατον τοῦ κυρίου (the death of the Lord) is central: not His teachings, not His example, but His substitutionary death. **Till he come** (ἄχρι οὗ ἔλθῃ)—eschatological orientation. The Table looks backward (remembrance, v. 24) and forward (return, v. 26). Between Christ's first and second comings, the Table sustains the church, proclaiming His death until He returns to consummate the kingdom. Communion is pilgrimage meal—nourishment for the journey home.

Historical Context

Early Christians expected Christ's imminent return (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 22:20). The phrase marana tha ('Our Lord, come!', 1 Corinthians 16:22) likely accompanied communion liturgy. The Table oriented believers eschatologically—already participating in new covenant blessings (forgiveness, Spirit) but not yet in full kingdom reality (glorified bodies, new creation). This 'already/not yet' tension shaped early Christian hope and holiness. The Table's

regular celebration reminded believers they were 'strangers and exiles' (1 Peter 2:11) awaiting their King.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Lord's Supper 'proclaim' the gospel—what does this meal communicate that words alone cannot?
2. What difference does it make to approach the Table with eschatological expectation ('till He come') rather than mere nostalgia?
3. How should the Table's dual orientation (remembrance and anticipation) shape Christian living between Christ's comings?

Interlinear Text

ὅσάκις G3740	γὰρ For G1063	ἅν as often as G302	ἐσθίητε ye eat G2068	τὸν G3588	ἄρτον bread G740	τοῦτον this G5126	καὶ and G2532	τὸ G3588
ποτήριον cup G4221	τοῦτο this G5124	πίνητε drink G4095	τὸν G3588	θάνατον death G2288	τοῦ G3588	κυρίου the Lord's G2962		
καταγγέλλετε ye do shew G2605	ἄχρις till G891	οὗ he G3739	ἅν as often as G302	ἔλθῃ come G2064				

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Hebrews 9:28 (Parallel theme): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

John 14:3 (Parallel theme): And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Acts 1:11 (Parallel theme): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:23 (Parallel theme): But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

2 Peter 3:10 (References Lord): But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (References Lord): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

John 21:22 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Revelation 22:20 (References Lord): He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

