

## April 14<sup>th</sup> A Night of Remembrance

Of all of our yearly Christian celebrations, this is the only one that Jesus commanded “**Keep doing this in remembrance of me.**” (*Luke 22:19-20*) But most of us do not know what day this Spring the anniversary falls on. This year it falls on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Although we have private Memorial Suppers or Holy Communion throughout the year, ‘as often as we gather together’ (*1 Corinthians 11:26*), we are encouraging the Christian community to have an annual Memorial Supper where families and friends get together, in a similar way the Jews do in connection with the Passover.

The Passover was not celebrated at the temples or synagogues. Each family had a private meal at their homes where they often invited close friends to share with them. Everyone in the household, including the children, were welcomed and present and participants in the celebration. The children were not ‘passed over’ as if they were not beneficiaries of the freedom they celebrated. It was a commemoration of their emancipation from Egyptian captivity by symbolically reliving the night when ‘death passed over their houses.’ They ate matzah and bitter greens to remind them of their bitter slavery, and then they drank wine as symbolic of their newfound freedom. After the meal, they recited the story of their exodus from Egypt and they kept doing it year after year as a remembrance.

In the same manner, the First Memorial Supper was a private gathering of believers at the invitation of Jesus to share a meal with him. This was their night of remembrance of their transference from the rule of men ‘into the kingdom of the son of his love.’ (*Colossians 1:13*) They partook of the bread of life which represents the life Jesus lived for the whole world so that anyone who partook of the bread, and lived as he lived, would also have life. (*John 6:53*) They drank of the wine that symbolized the blood of the new covenant – the Spirit of Truth that was poured out on our behalf. (*Titus 3:4-7*) All who drank it openly confessed their willingness to commit to the leading and guidance of the Spirit. (*John 16:13*) And afterward, Jesus reminded them of his ministry and the glorious future awaiting them and us. (*John 13:31-17:26*)

Every year no matter what the weather is like, there seems to always be a full moon seen worldwide as a witness to us on this anniversary date of the First Memorial Supper. This can be a special time with family and friends which we have not seen in a while. A time of encouragement and sharing with new ones that have entered the race for ‘the real life,’ (*1 Timothy 6:19*) ‘keeping our minds fixed on the things above’ (*Colossians 3:1-2*) Yes, Our Glorious Heavenly Hope.

Such celebrations will prove upbuilding, and encouraging for all. As our celestial family looks on, seeing the spiritual aroma ascending heavenward, imagine on one day, a great unity of worshipful prayers of thanksgiving and appreciation in honor of the one who has been given ‘all authority in heaven and on earth.’ (*Matthew 28:18*) Imagine the joy of the ‘angels of the congregations’ (*Revelation 1:20*) at seeing the groups they oversee as their collective praise ascends to our Lord Christ Jesus. Imagine the Father’s ‘heartfelt joy’ (*Proverbs 27:11*) at seeing so many collectively honoring His appointed sovereign. (*Hebrews 1:2*) Imagine the satisfaction of Jesus as he watches, knowing his life, his death, and his ministry was not in vain! ‘I give my flesh in behalf of the world’ (*John 6:51*)

The Father never considers it inappropriate to have a unity of believers confessing the Christ and renewing hope and consecration of will on a designated night. The words of the Apostle Paul to ‘keep our minds fixed on the things above’ (*Colossians 3:2*) are given supernal life on such a night. It’s a golden opportunity for the **Brotherhood of Christ** around the world to be showing how much we value the life and death of our Lord and Savior. This type of expression, this type of love should be shown throughout the year, but when offered up as one united throng, it has incredible spiritual force. (*Romans 15:5-6*)

Let this year’s Memorial Supper be a celebration of our Christian Jubilee – ‘good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom to the crushed ones.’ (*Luke 4:18-20*) We have in the past abandoned the stewardship of men, and accepted our place as sons of God and ‘Ambassadors Substituting for Christ.’ (*2 Corinthians 5:20*) Not only this night, but ‘as often as we gather together’ (*1 Corinthians 11:26*), let us relive and honor our Christ-won God-given liberty without hindrance. (*Matthew 10:32-33*) Our faithfulness will lead many to righteousness as Daniel prophesied:

“And those having insight will shine as brightly as the expanse of heaven, and those bringing the many to righteousness like the stars, forever and ever.” – *Daniel 12:3*

Let us all be thinking about how we can bring greater honor to our Lord this most Memorial Night!

**This year Memorial Supper falls on April 14, 2014 the day before the Passover.**