Monday

<u>Matt. 26:26</u> Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is My body."

There is a strong move in our day to separate spirituality from the reality of history. Religion becomes not merely personal but subjective. This is not the Christian faith. For though Christianity calls for 'belief', it calls for belief in the historic acts of God. Your faith is not without reason, nor should it be. Your faith must be grounded in the truth of history, the history of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is a reminder that we celebrate the truth of God's real work in history. We are not celebrating an individual's false spirituality in empty ceremony, but the acts of a living God who entered history to save mankind.

Tuesday

<u>Luke 22:19</u> And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body *which is given for you...*"

Early Christians did not ask anyone to accept the death, burial, and resurrection by faith. They instead pointed to the historic evidence of eyewitness testimony, the evidence of a created church, and the evidence of changed lives as absolute proof of the person and work of Jesus. They fathomed no doubt in these things. There was no thought of 'blind faith'; instead the call for faith was to trust that these historic acts were 'of God' and 'effective for our salvation.' This was the object of faith. That Jesus died is historic record. That He died for you is personal faith.

Wednesday

<u>Heb. 9:12</u> ...not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

The death of the Passover lamb provided immediate relief from judgment but not eternal salvation. The death of Jesus offered a sacrifice 'once for all'. On the night of His betrayal Jesus translated the OT symbol into a new covenant sealed with His own blood. No longer would there be a need for a yearly sacrifice, because the perfect 'lamb of God' had taken the place of the symbolic Passover lamb. The celebration of the Lord's Supper allows us to remember anew what Jesus has done for us and what we could not do for ourselves. Think of the supper and thank God for your salvation brought by and bought by Jesus.

Thursday

Matt. 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Imagine your back beaten raw by a whip until your ribs are exposed and your flesh hangs in shreds. Imagine that you are hung on a cross, your arms stretch until you cannot breathe, your lungs filling up with fluid until you know you are drowning. Imagine that you are entirely alone deserted by God completely because of the guilt of sin. Now, thank God that it will not happen to you, because Jesus let it happen to Himself. The Lord's Supper reminds us that we will not suffer because He did.

Friday

Matt. 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

The toast is set, the promise is sure. We will meet the Lord in the kingdom for a grand celebration of the work He accomplished. Our salvation is secured by the sacrifice He made. There is no other condition to be met. His work was fully effectual. Therefore He says, "I will not drink again until we meet to drink it anew on the other side, in glory." Mission accomplished! When you take the juice to your lips do it in anticipation of the celebration we will have with Jesus. That celebration will come soon when He completes His kingdom. Amen!