Remember the Passover Lamb TP at ECCC 1/22/2012

Scriptures:

Exo 8:1; Let my people go that they may serve me

Exo 12:1-8, 11; The lamb, the blood, eat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, Leave

Exo 12:14, 15-19; Keep Passover as memorial, and Keep the feast of unleavened bread

Luke 22:7-8, 15-16, 19-20 Jesus ordered the Passover supper; there He asked His disciples to break bread to remember Him until the kingdom of God comes.

1Cor 5:6-8; Christ, our Passover lamb, has already been sacrificed.

1Cor 10: 17a; We, being many, are one bread, and one body.

1Cor 11:23-26; I received from the Lord….; Remember His death until He comes.

Main burden: LORD Jehovah said, Remember Passover throughout your generations. Lord Jesus said, Do this in remembrance of me…until that day I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father. Why did they so insist? What does their insistence mean to you and me?

1. LORD Jehovah’s message to Pharaoh: Let my people go that they may serve me. (Exo 8:1)
   1. He wants to deliver them from the bondage of Pharaoh: toil, sin, false gods, world
   2. He wants to set them free to serve the living God.
2. LORD Jehovah’s message to His own: Remember Passover; Keep feast of unleavened bread
   1. Kill the Lamb
      1. one per family or with neighbor (12:3)
      2. male, one year old, without blemish (12:5)
   2. Put the blood on the door (12:7)
      1. Top and two posts
   3. Eat the lamb, with unleavened bread, and bitter herbs (12:8)
      1. Lamb roasted with fire
      2. Bread without leaven
      3. Herbs bitter
   4. Eat in a hurry and leave (12:11)
      1. The Lamb will be your strength.
   5. Remember the Passover from generation to generation. (12:14)
      1. Remember God’s deliverance through His Lamb.
   6. No leaven for 7 days, in food or in house (12:15)
      1. Leaven represents sin that spreads.
         1. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. (1Cor 5:66)
      2. Leaven means having a form of piety but no reality, like the Pharisees; and not believing spiritual things, like the Sadducees. (Matt 16:12, Luke 12:1)
         1. …beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matt 16:6)
      3. Live no longer with the old leaven, malice, and wickedness (1Cor 5:8a)
      4. But with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1Cor 5:8b)
   7. Keep the feast of unleavened bread for 7 days. (12:17-19))
      1. Influence of sin, Satan and the world must go.
3. Lord Jesus delivered us from the bondage like of Pharaoh: of sin and death and the world.
   1. “It is finished” He said. (John 19:32)
   2. The spirit of the world works against the Spirit of God to prevent us from knowing the things God has given us freely in grace. (1Cor 2:12).
   3. But Jesus said, “Be of good courage, for I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
4. Lord Jesus’ message to His own: Break bread. Do this in remembrance of me.
   1. This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19b)
   2. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:20)
5. How this message arrested Paul:
   1. I received from the Lord that which I delivered to you. (1Cor 11:23a)
   2. From a zealous persecutor driven by blind hatred to a disciple of Jesus full of love.
      1. I have been crucified with Christ…He loved me and gave Himself for me.(Gal 2:20)
   3. Paul’s exhortations to us
      1. Remember that Christ is our Passover lamb, sacrificed for us. (1Cor 5:7b)
      2. Commune with Christ in His body and His blood. (1Cor 10:16)
      3. We, being many, are one bread and one body. (1Cor 10:17)
      4. Gather to remember Him and to announce His death, (1Cor 11:24b, 25b, 26b)
      5. Until He comes (11:26b)
         1. His resurrection is our power to overcome, and our strength to walk, work and wait for His return.
6. Today, why must we break bread to remember Him, our Passover Lamb?
   1. Because we were set free by Him from the bondage of sin, death, Satan and the world,
      1. No one can deliver us from guilt of sin and power of sin. He did.
      2. No one can bring us the life of God, He did.
      3. No one can deliver us from the bondage of the world. He did, and proved that He is bigger than the world.
         1. Story of a young man and his music
      4. Paul said, “I boast in the cross of Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Gal 6:14)
   2. Because He asked for it!
      1. He needs this: that we forget Him not.
         1. It is strange we rarely ask Him to remember us, as avoiding a burden. Yet He asks us, who are so unworthy, to remember Him!
         2. May this humble us!
      2. That night, He told the disciples: if you love me, keep my commandment (John 14:15).
         1. If we don’t break bread with saints, knowing that we should, He would think we don’t love Him.
            1. Do we love Him?
   3. Because breaking bread to remember Him is vital to the health of our spiritual life.
      1. For our spiritual life is rooted in Christ, nowhere else. (Col 2, John 15)
         1. A plant is dying if its roots are separated from the soil. Our spiritual life is dying if we leave the source: Jesus Christ.
      2. Blessed is the man……He is as a tree planted by streams of water …(Psalm 1:1-3)
         1. A tree flourishes with leaves and fruit if it is planted by the water.
      3. Christ alone is the fountain of life….. (Psalm 36:9)
         1. Where is the fountain? It is with Him, and nowhere else.
            1. When we cling to Him and rest in His love what we have learned or read about Him sinks in, becoming an inner part of us.
         2. If we don’t come to Him regularly to remember Him, spending time with Him, drawing water from Him, we dry out; no matter how many good messages we have heard, good works we have done, and good songs we have sung.
            1. And we don’t even know we are drying out.
7. How do we participate? Since He simply wants us to come together to remember Him (being many, we are one bread and one body), it is very simple:
   1. Outward things are unimportant: doctrine, formality, good singing, polished prayers, etc.
   2. He wants a heart-to-heart fellowship, a real relationship: “Commune with Me”.
      1. Know that my sins are forgiven.
      2. Know that I am delivered, set free once for all, untouchable by the power of darkness.
      3. Drink in the fountain of His love.
      4. Look up to His beauty, of the one who died and was raised for me, and the one who is guaranteeing the new covenant for me.
   3. What can I offer to the Lord?
      1. Simplicity and truth (the unleavened bread)
      2. Reasons of my hope: Sanctify Lord the Christ in your hearts, and be always prepared to give an answer to every one that asks you to give an account of the hope that is in you, but with meekness and fear. (1Pet 2:15)
      3. A renewed commitment to follow Him: With what shall I come before the LORD….and what does the LORD require of thee, but to do just, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)
   4. What if I fall asleep?
      1. Sometimes you may feel sleepy, for the flesh is weak. Lord Jesus is always kind and understanding. And He is most happy to see us there, sleepy or not.
      2. Sometimes the atmosphere at the table could be heavy, just like the garden of Gethsemane. For it is there His cross we see, the myrrh for His burial we smell, and the bitter herbs for the Passover we taste.
         1. When Peter, James and John fell asleep at Gethsemane, Jesus asked: “Thus you have not been able to watch one hour with me?” (Matt 26:40)
         2. He came on a mission. And He desires that we who identify with Him and His mission would “watch one hour with Me”.
         3. At the table, when we feel so close to Him and His mission, grace is given for us to be watchful with Him. It is our privilege and great honor.