

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

At the Lord's Table

1. WHAT was the central ordinance in the life of the early church?

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2: 42. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." Acts 2: 46.

2. On what occasion have we a record of Paul celebrating the communion service with one of the churches he had raised up?

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." Acts 20:7.

3. How did the ordinance originate?

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread." 1 Corinthians 11:23.

4. For I what purpose had the disciples gathered on this occasion?

"And He sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the Passover, that we may eat. And they made ready the Passover. And when the hour was come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him." Luke 22: 8-14.

5. How intensely significant did Jesus realize this particular Passover service was to be?

"And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: for I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Verses 15, 16.

"Christ was standing at the point of transition between two economies and their two great festivals. He, the spotless Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, and He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death. As He ate the Passover with His disciples, He instituted in its place the service that was to be the memorial of His great sacrifice." - E. G. White in "The Desire of Ages," page 652.

6. Following the supper and the institution of the ordinance of humility, what service of remembrance did He inaugurate?

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them." Verse 19.

7. How did Jesus explain the symbolism of the broken bread?

"This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me." Verse 19.

8. What did He next distribute to the disciples?

"And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink you all of it." Matthew 26: 27.

9. What did He pronounce the cup to be?

"This cup is the new testament in MY blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22: 20.

10. In what beautiful way does Paul call to mind the significance of the Lord's supper?

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 10: 16.

"As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's broken body and spilled blood, the thought of Calvary awakens living and sacred emotions in our hearts. Praise to God and the Lamb will be in our hearts and on our lips."-E. G. White in "Desire of Ages," page 661.

11. What expressions does he recall which reveal Jesus' intention that the supper should be a permanent memorial in the church?

"This do in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:24. "This do you, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." Verse 25.

12. How important is the remembrance of Christ's sacrificial death on our behalf?

"By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15: 2, 3.

13. What other important truth will the regular observance of the communion service keep in mind?

"For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till He come." 1 Corinthians 11: 26.

"The communion service points to Christ's Second Coming. It was designed to keep this hope vivid in the minds of the disciples in their tribulation they found comfort in the hope of their Lord's return." - E. G. White in "The Desire of Ages," page 659.

14. What guilt attaches to unworthy partaking of so solemn a service?

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“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. For he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” Verses 27-29.

15. How does Paul, therefore, counsel believers to prepare themselves for this memorial service?

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.” Verse 28.

16. Of what commendation should we seek to be worthy?

“Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.” Verse 2.

15. Christian Service

Saved to Serve

1. To what high service are believers called?

“And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5: 18.

“To believe in God is to dedicate our lives to the cause of His kingdom in the world. The second commandment flows out from the first. When a man turns to God desiring to serve Him God directs his attention to the world and its need.” - Emil Brunner in “The Divine Imperative,” page 189.

2. Wherein does the chief honor of service lie?

“For we are laborers together with God.” 1 Corinthians 3:9.

“The Christian is not the agent, but the instrument, not the workman, but the tool; it is not I and Christ, nor even Christ and I; but ‘Christ through me’; as St. Paul says, ‘according to the power that works in us.’-Dr. Griffith Thomas.

3. How readily should the believer respond to the call to service?

“I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6: 8.

“It is not enough to give our time, or energy, or money. Many will gladly give anything, rather than themselves. None of these will be accounted as a sufficient substitute by Him who gave, not only His possessions, but His very self for us. As the Lord Jesus was all for us, He asks that we should be all for Him-body, soul, and spirit; one’s reasonable service and gift.” - F. B. Meyer in “Light on Life’s Duties,” page 46.

4. How are those who respond to the call to service commended?

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30.

5. What provision does God promise to His servants for the fulfillment of their ministry?

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good -work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8.

“When God calls us to a work He gives the needed strength. Not one of us knows the possibilities of usefulness that lie folded up in his hand and brain and heart. The Lord can use human feebleness as well as human strength.” - J. R. Miller.

6. How does He encourage them in their service?

“Be you strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.” 2 Chronicles 15:7. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

7. To whom are believers to look for an example of labor?

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our Profession, Christ Jesus.” Hebrews 3:1.

8. What reasons are advanced for zeal in the Lord’s work?

a. Urgency of the task. “Say not you, There are yet four months, and then comes harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” John 4:35.

b. Scarcity of laborers. “Therefore said He unto them, The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few.” Luke 10:2.

c. Shortness of time. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:16. “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when