

Heb. 10 : 24: "Let us give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we can stir up to love and helpful deeds." (Amplified New Testament)

2.—THE LORD'S SUPPER — I Cor. 11 : 23-29 (see also Matt. 26 : 26-28; Mark 14 : 22-24; Luke 22 : 18, 20; I Cor. 10 : 16, 17)

Four outstanding features are apparent in this service, also:

(a) It is all-inclusive in scope

By the appointment of this ordinance, Jesus gave renewed emphasis to the principle of active participation: No believer is excluded. This is a service of the Church in which every member can have a personal share—one that involves his whole being!

(b) It has unforgettable associations

It is easy to think of alternative memorials that Jesus could have chosen to commemorate His death: a monumental pillar; a gleaming obelisk; a cairn; a marble inscription; the annual reading of a memorial address; the singing of a memorial hymn; a pilgrimage; an insistence upon the preservation of the actual cross, or the actual tomb. But no, in His Divine wisdom He chose a homelier but better memorial—the appointment of a simple meal. By this means the scenes of His death, and our personal share in its benefits, are entwined with the most familiar and hallowed associations of the human heart—the home, the family and the meal-table!

(c) It has four prime essentials

If we wish to receive the maximum benefit from this ordinance, we must become personally involved. We cannot be content to be mere passive spectators. Hands, lips, mind, heart, conscience and will must combine in active participation. The ideal Communion Service involves a four-fold act of devotion:

A Backward Look (The Look of Remembrance)

I Cor. 11 : 24: "This do in remembrance of Me."

I Cor. 11 : 26: "Ye do show the Lord's death."

A Forward Look (The Look of Hope)

I Cor. 11 : 26: "Till He come."

Titus 2 : 11-13: "Looking for that blessed hope."

Heb. 9 : 28: "Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time."

An Inward Look (The Look of Self-examination)

I Cor. 11 : 28: "But let a man examine himself."

Ps. 139 : 23, 24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart."

Matt. 7 : 1-5: "First cast the beam out of thine own eye."

An Upward Look (The Look of Dependence)

Heb. 12 : 2: "Looking unto Jesus."

John 6 : 48-58: "I am the Living Bread . . . He that eateth Me shall live by Me."

John 15 : 1-5: "I am the Vine . . . Without Me ye can do nothing."

(d) It teaches one enduring lesson

Matt. 4 : 4: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

This was the paramount lesson taught by the daily supply of manna in the wilderness, and it is the enduring lesson of the Lord's Supper. The attitude of total dependence upon Christ, so powerfully impressed upon Communion days, must become the lifelong habit of the soul. This is the distilled essence of true religion. This is the ideal response of the believing heart. This is saving faith.

"Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, we bear fruit after the similitude of Christ." (Desire of Ages, p. 677)