

It Is Not a Ritual; It Is a Path to Holiness

Dan Jenkins

Because it happens every week, it is easy for the partaking of the Lord's Supper to become somewhat of a religious ritual and we fail to understand the part it plays in our spiritual growth. The abuse of this feast in Corinth brought dire consequences. "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep" ([1 Cor. 11:30](#)). If one does not remember Jesus and discern His body as he partakes of the bread and cup, he eats and drinks damnation to his soul.

In the New Testament we remember Him, but in the Old Testament they remembered their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. From the time the Sabbath was given until the close of the Old Testament, there was not a weekly assembly, but a time when the Jews, their families, their Gentile neighbors, and even their animals stopped all activity and spent that day thinking about God delivering them from bondage. Tragically, by the time of the New Testament, it had become a day which involved the precise distance one could walk on that day, whether it was sinful to walk through a field of grain and eat the wheat in that field as they walked. It had become a day where one could water his donkey and help his ox get out of a ditch, but the Messiah was forbidden to heal on that day. It was so ritualistic that keeping the rites of that day became a symbol of righteousness!

The failure to keep that day holy was a primary reason for the Babylonian captivity that lasted seven decades. God described it this way: "Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned My holy things...and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them" ([Ezek. 22:26](#)). The sabbath was holy and so is the Lord's supper.

So, what happens to us as we remember, not the sabbath, but the Lord in His feast? Peter described those who were failing to add the "Christian Graces" to their faith when he says, "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten he was cleansed from his old sins" ([2 Pet. 1:9](#)). The Lord's Supper is a weekly reminder of how He purged us from our sins and delivered us from the bondage of sin. It is a time we examine ourselves as we visit the cross. The Lord wanted Israel to remember deliverance from the bondage of Egypt every week and gave them a memorial day to ensure their spiritual growth. The Lord wants us to remember our deliverance from the bondage of sin every week and has given us a memorial feast to ensure our spiritual growth.

As you eat the bread and drink of the cup, never let it become a ritual. But let it be that time when you commune with Him around His table and visit the cross of our salvation.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

June 18, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: I Know Your Father

Scripture Reading: John 5:36-44

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm June 21, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the third chapter on R (repenting). You should receive notes ahead of time by email.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – July 16.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, June 20. **Jonah cont'd.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing** – July 30. **Here.**



Fourth of July BBQ picnic: Tuesday, July 4th at Paul & Dawn's house- 350 Dean Creek Rd., Spencer, NY 14873. Beginning at 12 noon, bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs. Meat, BBQ beans and Mac 'n cheese provided.

Sandy and Arthur will be attending the weddings of two grandchildren in Alaska at the end of this month. They will leave on June 22 and return on July 1, Lord willing.

The "House to House and Heart to Heart" mailing took place two weeks ago and we have already received a response by mail. Arthur followed up by delivering some additional Bible study materials.

Steve and Amy are traveling with family this weekend.

PRAYERS

Sandy is much improved, thank the Lord! Thank you for your prayers.

Pray for success with the House to House and Heart to Heart outreach effort.

Miki has had a tooth extracted that was causing her pain from an infection. Pray that her pain goes away soon and she is all better.

Pray for safe travels for Sandy and Arthur to AK and back, as well as others who are traveling.

Pray for these people:

- **Bob** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Sue Barry**- Breast cancer stage 4 chemo treatment.
- **Pat Gutherie**- lung cancer, stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Bonnie's brother Gregg**- prostate surgery June 29.
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia. He is not improving. **Carrie** needs prayer and encouragement.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer, he is back on chemo
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **The people of Ukraine, Russia and Sudan.**
- **Jerry Lowe**- needs contact with a church and encouragement.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.