We stand on firm and reliable ground when we meet each week on the Lord’s Day to eat the loaf and drink the cup of our Lord. The ground upon which we stand is that of the Apostolic example that is written in the eternal Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote to his Philippian brethren that they were to “join in following [his] example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.” Regarding that “pattern” as it pertains to the Lord’s Supper, it is written in Acts 20:6-7 that when Apostle Paul arrived in Troas he “stayed seven days” so that he could break the loaf and drink the cup that was on the Lord’s Supper Table with the church “on the first day of the week.”

Anyone who is a Christian wants to be at that Table of our Lord each and every Lord’s Day. Though we are not worthy in our own unrighteousness to dine with the Lord of our salvation, clothed with His righteousness we commune with Him in eating the bread and drinking the cup which He has offered on our behalf. Prayerfully, we always do this in a worthy “manner,” properly “discerning the Lord’s body.”

The world also eats and drinks – not just on the Lord’s Day but throughout the week. Their menu, however, consists of a different kind of loaf and a different kind of cup and at a different kind of table. It is what Paul calls in 1 Corinthians 10:21 “the table of demons.” “The cup of demons” and the loaf of demons are on that table. Some who eat and drink from that table “eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.” This table is the table that is set in Proverbs 4:17.

The early part of the book of Proverbs exhorts God’s people to seek wisdom and to listen to the instruction of the wise. In the course of Proverbs’ exhortations, this book of wisdom frequently describes the unrighteous character of those who do not seek wisdom and of those who do not listen to the instruction of the wise. Those who are wise want nothing to do with the table at which they sit.

Proverbs 4:14 – 15 enumerates five negative and one positive imperatives to the wise regarding the wisdom of staying away from the unrighteous and their ways. (1) “Do not enter the path of the wicked;” (2) “...do not walk in the way of evil;” (3) “Avoid it;” (4) “do not travel on it;” (5) “Turn away from it;” and (6) “...pass on.” Doing evil, wicked, unrighteous deeds can become addictive. Solomon, the author of...
Proverbs 4, says that those who live and practice unrighteousness become addicted to that life insomuch that “…they do not sleep unless they have done evil; …their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.” The unrighteous, wicked cannot rest unless they are doing “evil” and causing others to “fall.” It is difficult to understand how or why people are like this, but some people are. It is as if they worship evil. And if evil is their god, they have a god who has provided a table at which they can meet. On that table is “the bread of wickedness” and “the wine of violence.”

When Jesus was crucified there was a sea of humanity eating and drinking at the table of Satan and his demons. They were filled with so much evil and wickedness that they could not and would not rest until they saw Jesus nailed alive to His cross. It was a violent execution. There was nothing humane about it. Bloodthirsty men licked their lips with each drop of blood that dripped from the body of the only sinless Savior men would ever be offered.

It is ironic. Jesus, the Christ, the only begotten Son of God was preparing His table while evil, wicked, bloodthirsty men were eating and drinking from their table of preference – “the table of demons.” And while seated at this “table” eating their unholy meal their Savior prayed to His Father, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Only God knows how many men and women come to His Table each Lord’s Day who know what it is like to have eaten “the bread of wickedness” and to have drunk “the wine of violence” before their conversion. But, now, by His grace, they eat the holy loaf and drink the divine cup.

We are all guilty at one time or another of eating that “bread of wickedness” and drinking that “wine of violence.” We may not think we have but that is only because we do not see the evil and wickedness of our sin in the way that our holy God sees sin. What we did before our salvation was “wickedness” and “violence” against God’s will and Word. As we sit at the Lord’s Table we preach to the lost: “Don’t eat that bread! – Don’t drink that cup!”

Oh, how humbly and thankfully we should come to this table where we remember the Christ who saved us from ourselves and from the “wickedness” and “violence” of our sin. Let us praise and glorify His name as we commune with Him in this hour.

PRAYER

Our God and our Father Who dwells in heaven, we are ashamed that we have eaten from the table of wickedness and violence. We are ashamed that we did not come to your table sooner than we did. But we rejoice and give you all praise and glory for rescuing us from the table of demons and providing us a place to sit at the Table of your Son. You have honored us by inviting us to His table; we are privileged to eat this holy loaf which is His body and drink this consecrated cup which is His blood. We pray that you will continue to cover and cleanse us from all sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. We respectfully petition you to do this in the name of Jesus, our Christ. Amen.