

**STUDY MATERIALS & QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL
REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP or FAMILY DISCUSSIONS**

June 4 thru 10, 2023

—Here are some encouraging Bible references & quotations that relate to our study: (There are benefits in reading passages like this!)

—from **1 Corinthians 11: 23–26** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

27–32 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. **But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.**

—“It has never occurred to me until this very moment that when I am approaching the altar to receive the bread and the wine I’m not entering into a religious ritual, I am celebrating a relationship. I am approaching a Person. I am approaching the person of Jesus Christ.”

—**an anonymous pastor**

—“In coming to this service the believer comes to meet with Christ and have fellowship with Him at His invitation. The examination takes place because it would be hypocrisy for us to pretend that we are in communion with the Holy One while actually cherishing known sin in our hearts.

—**James Montgomery Boice**

—“It is true that the Lord’s Supper is only for sinners. But within that group, it is only for repentant sinners.” —**Mark Dever**

—“We ought carefully and with the utmost seriousness and consideration attend the celebration of the Lord’s Supper: this was appointed for this end, to draw forth longings of our souls toward Jesus Christ. Here are the glorious objects of spiritual desire by visible signs represented to our view. We have Christ evidently set forth crucified.... Here we have that spiritual meat and drink represented and offered to excite our hunger and thirst; here we have all that spiritual feast represented which God has provided for poor souls; and here we may hope in some measure to have our longing souls satisfied in this world by the gracious communications of the Spirit of God.”

—**Jonathan Edwards**

—“We should remember that it is through Christ’s death that we are reconciled to God and each other. He has made us one, and we set our hearts on pursuing unity in love. The Lord’s Supper is a great time to pray and plan for oneness with our brothers and sisters. It is a time to explore new ways to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving.”

—**Edward Welch**

—**Romans 8 1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ... **31–39** What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can stand against us? Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies! Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the One who died and more than that, He was raised, Who is at the right hand of God, and Who also is interceding for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we encounter death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer (have complete victory) through Him who loved us! For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—“The only way to have an absolute assurance that Heaven is in your future is to have an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior who died in your place to pay for your sins.” —**GAD**

—“The love and mercy of God are infinite and matchless, still the penalty for sin must be paid. Thus it was, in the eternal past, before the foundation of the world, that God determined and planned that atonement should be provided for His fallen creatures who would be deceived by Satan. If no plan of atonement had been proposed and perpetuated by the Godhead, all would be hopeless for mankind. And so, in the counsels of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, it was decreed that One should come and offer Himself as a Divine Substitute in the sinner’s place. This necessitated the Substitute taking upon Himself a human body. The eternal Son of God was that Substitute.” —**Lehman Strauss**

—“We are secure, not because we hold tightly to Jesus, but because He is holding tightly to us!” —**R. C. Sproul**

—“*The only reason that men are offended at the preaching of the Cross is because they have no adequate sense of sin and the holiness of our Lord. When a man refuses to face sin, he will find it easy to dispense with what the Bible teaches about the Atoning Death of Christ.*”

—**Lehman Strauss**

—**Jude 24–25** Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to cause you to stand, rejoicing, without blemish before his glorious presence, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen..

—“We can’t say ‘no’ to temptation without saying ‘yes’ to the Holy Spirit in sincere submission and cooperation.” —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“*The Holy Spirit works in our lives by peeling away our sinful habits and replacing them with godly qualities. His goal is to shape and transform us more and more into the image of Christ.*” —**GAD**

—“It was better for Adam that his hands were free to take the forbidden fruit, than that he should have been compelled to go about all the days of his life with his hands tied behind his back. Freedom is one of God’s great blessings to man, and sin entered into the world when man abused his privilege of freedom.” —**Lehman Strauss**

—“*All sin is the result of Satan’s evil plan and purpose to get men to live and act independently of God.*” —**Lehman Strauss**

—**Here are some questions for personal reflections & discussion.**

—**1**— Are there any specific quotes or scripture passages that you would like to discuss with one another? There are several that might provoke or encourage some very interesting discussion!

—**2**— It’s spiritually healthy and beneficial to seriously think about the truth that “Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ (have totally trusted in what Christ has done for us).” What influence should this truth have on our guilty fears or doubts that might haunt or discourage us when we do something we shouldn’t? What impact should this have on our reaction or response when we’re tempted to sin? How can this help us to encourage or counsel others?

—**3**— While some people, especially new Christians, become troubled by the mention of predestination, what comfort, encouragement, or assurance does knowing that God Almighty has lovingly planned for our lives and prepared for our glorification?

—**4**— How does the ministry of God’s Spirit encourage or comfort you?

—**5**— Based on Romans 8, what thoughts come to your mind about the love of God? What specifically does the love of God mean to you in a personal and practical way?

—**6**— *If salvation is totally of the Lord, then is there anything that an unbeliever can do to be saved? Why is this truth important for us to understand? If our salvation is entirely secure, is there a danger that it could lead to loose, careless living? How can we protect against this?*

—**7**— Celebrating the Lord’s Supper points us toward the Cross. Why should the Cross be a central focus of our Christian lives? What does this mean in a personal and practical way?

—**8**— Some well-meaning people believe that celebrating the Lord’s Supper is necessary to maintain their relationship with the Lord. How is this true ... and how can it become a dangerous or deceptive idea?

—**9**— *Where’s the balance between personal examination that leads to repentance and personal introspection that might become harmful or overwhelming? How much introspection is healthy? Is it spiritually and emotionally healthy to think often of our own depravity? Why/why not? Practically speaking, how can we keep communion from becoming an empty ritual or routine where we simply go through the motions?*