

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

### *“Comportment in Communion”*

#### *Selected Scripture*

*May 27 – June 2, 2012*

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week we return to our on going mini-series concerning The Lord's Supper. As we approach this upcoming Lord's Day, I pray that God will use the truth of His Word to teach us and instruct us concerning our participation in The Lord's Table. Our lesson is entitled “*Comportment in Communion*”. The word “comportment” means “the manner in which one behaves” and we will see detailed for us Scriptural directives in how we are to behave at The Lord's Table taken from the question & answer #174 from The Westminster Larger Catechism. We will go through #174 and see Scriptural support for the answer given. Read **Nehemiah 8:1-6**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –The Westminster Larger Catechism #174 reads as follows:

Question 174: What is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the time of the administration of it?

Answer: It is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, that, during the time of the administration of it, with all holy reverence and attention they wait upon God in that ordinance, diligently observe the sacramental elements and actions, heedfully discern the Lord's body, and affectionately meditate on his death and sufferings, and thereby stir up themselves to a vigorous exercise of their graces; in judging themselves, and sorrowing for sin; in earnest hungering and thirsting after Christ, feeding on him by faith, receiving of his fullness, trusting in his merits, rejoicing in his love, giving thanks for his grace; in renewing of their covenant with God, and love to all the saints. Read **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** to see God directs His people how to behave.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to behave as You have directed me concerning how I am to worship and obey You.*

**TUESDAY** –We start out by reading, “It is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, that, during the time of the administration of it, with all holy reverence and attention they wait upon God in that ordinance...” The point I would have us see here is found in the phrase, “with all holy reverence and attention...” I have lamented before of the seeming lack

of reverence for the worship of God among His people. The Lord's Day corporate worship is not a time to gather to discuss the past weeks activities or our plans for the upcoming week; rather, it is a time when we are to focus our "holy reverence and attention" upon our triune Holy God. And when we come to participate in the Sacrament of The Lord's Table, we come as it were to "wait upon God" as we receive by faith His blessing through this means of grace. Some of what we "receive" is the assurance of forgiveness of sins through Christ, the promise of His presence with us always, and the future hope in the promise of His return and our physical resurrection and fellowship with Him. Read **Exodus 3:3-5, Psalm 89:7, 111:9, Hebrews 12:28.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to come before You and Your Supper Christ with a holy reverence and awe of who You are and what You have done for me by Your grace.*

**WEDNESDAY** –The catechism continues, "...diligently observe the sacramental elements and actions, heedfully discern the Lord's body, and affectionately meditate on his death and sufferings..." We see visible elements in the sacraments which signify to us a reality beyond what is seen. Namely, in the Supper we see bread and wine which Christ calls, "my body" and "my blood of the covenant". Not only do we see the bread and wine (reminding us of Christ and His incarnation), but we see them broken (reminding us of His death), and then we eat them (reminding us of our union with Him by faith). We are told here in the catechism that we are to "heedfully discern the Lord's body" and "affectionately meditate" on The Lord Jesus' death and sufferings. As we said yesterday, there is to be reverential attitude that governs our comportment at The Table. We must realize this is "The Lord Jesus Christ" we are called to feed on by faith. This calls for serious contemplation & discernment that honors our Lord Jesus & His work for us His people. Read **Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 21.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me understand the significance of coming to the Lord's Table. Help me to think, discern, and meditate as I see the elements.*

**THURSDAY** – In light of what we have seen yesterday, and how we are to think, discern, and meditate as we see the elements and the sacrament given, the catechism calls us to "...thereby stir up themselves to a vigorous exercise of their graces; in judging themselves, and sorrowing for sin..." There must be a clear understanding that the reason there was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to the Father on our behalf is because we are fallen sinners. God almighty will punish ALL sin; and either you will be punished for it or Christ Jesus will have been punished for it in your place. NO sin will go unpunished beloved. The beauty of the gospel message is that Christ has taken the punishment for the sins of His people. As He said in Matthew 26:28, "...shed for many for the remission (forgiveness) of sins." When we come to The Lord's Table we are called to "judge ourselves", that is to say, we examine our hearts and minds and confess our sin to God. We then partake by faith in the very person that takes away our sin and forgives us, Jesus Christ and

remember and proclaim His death and work in our place. We are to understand it was OUR sin and fallen condition that made Christ's death necessary if we were to ever be forgiven. As the people of God, we come to The Table and confess and get our "feet cleansed" (**John 13:10**) and receive the assurance of our pardon through Christ. Read **1 Corinthians 11:27-32**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice in my place. Thank You for paying the penalty for my sin and making peace with God for me.*

**FRIDAY** –Further on in the catechism we read, "...in earnest hungering and thirsting after Christ, feeding on him by faith, receiving of his fullness, trusting in his merits, rejoicing in his love, giving thanks for his grace..." We now learn that at the Lord's Table we are to have an attitude of expectancy as we partake. We come desiring God; to feed on Jesus by faith as Christ Himself commands us in **John 6:53-58**. We must ask ourselves, "Do we in earnest come to The Lord's Table"? So much of our thinking is tainted by the modern "American" mindset that we must do something in our own strength. As I heard one Lutheran minister say recently, "Don't just do something, sit there". It is right and commanded of us as believers that we come to the Lord and sit in His presence and receive by faith from Him all that He has to bestow upon us as His people. We do receive through the God ordained means of grace, strength, assurance, joy, forgiveness of sin and so much more. It is not what we have done, but what Christ has done for us that gives us joy. Let's come before Him with true and thankful hearts for the perfect righteousness of Christ imputed to us as His children. Read **1 Corinthians 5:21**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for accepting me not on my own merits but because of Christ and what He has done for me.*

**SATURDAY** –We close with our responsibility toward God when coming to The Table in corporate worship. The last phrase in this portion of the confession reads. "...in renewing of their covenant with God, and love to all the saints." We are reminded of when the people of God came before Him in the Old Testament and covenanted with Him. We also as the people of God are to remember not only His promises to us, but our responsibility to obey and trust Him as well as to show love for our brethren. May we at the Table, renew our love and loyalty to God and be consumed by the wonder of this glorious reality that God has chosen to place His love upon us who are utterly unworthy in ourselves. Read **Exodus 24:1-12**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, Son, and Spirit, help me to worship in obedience.*