

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*“Unworthy Partaking-Eating & Drinking Judgment to Oneself”*

**1 Corinthians 11:27-34**

**October 26 – November 1, 2008**

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week we are coming back to our mini-series on The Lord’s Table. We want to look at the seriousness of coming to the Table for communion and how God through the Apostle Paul told us there are those who come and eat in an “unworthy” manner. Our desire should be to never be guilty of eating or drinking in an unworthy manner but instead to partake of The Lord’s Supper with clean hearts and clean hands. Read **1 Corinthians 11:27-34**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week and to help you see the significance of coming to the Table in a worthy manner.*

**MONDAY** –“Participation in The Lord’s Supper is serious business. At least it is to God.” (Tom Ascol) Those words ring in my ears as I consider the seriousness and significance of participating in The Lord’s Table. So many churches and Christians today just ritualistically go through the motions of a “tacked on the end of the service” sacrament. The Apostle Paul however issues a stern and severe warning in **1 Corinthians 11:27** about eating The Lord’s Supper in an “unworthy manner”. “Unworthy” is the Greek anaxios which means “in an unworthy manner” and comes from a word that means “unfit for a thing”. The point is obvious that a person could participate in The Lord’s Supper and be “unfit” in how they are doing so. Read **Psalm 24:3-5, 15:1-5** where the Psalmist speaks of the integrity of the heart God requires in approaching Him in worship.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Pray that God would help you to have “clean hands and a pure heart” and be ready each and every day to come worship Him.*

**TUESDAY** –The words that end **verse 27** should make every person pause, stop, and think before coming to The Lord’s Table. The words are,

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Mon							
Tue							
Wed							
Thu							
Fri							
Sat							

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

“...will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”. Paul tells us that those who eat and drink in an “unworthy manner” are “guilty” of dishonoring both the ordinance itself but most importantly the ONE in whose name and honor it is celebrated—The Lord Jesus Christ. A person can eat unworthily many ways. For example—Ritualistic mindless and heartless participation, thinking the ceremony itself rather than the Lord Jesus’ sacrifice gives one merit or righteousness or salvation, holding onto unrepentant sin in the heart or sin towards a brother or sister. We must come to The Table with a total focus on Christ Jesus and His sacrifice for us and our sin and not an attitude of indifference and mockery toward Christ and His sacrifice. What about your life? Examine yourself not your neighbor. Read **Psalm 26:1-12, 139:23-24**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to examine your heart for unrepentant sin & help you to come to The Table clean, free of any known sin, focused on Christ.

**WEDNESDAY** –When Paul warns of “unworthy” partaking he then uses this entire passage to explain his meaning. To help summarize in a general sense let’s say that unworthy partaking is to eat and drink the elements without properly regarding what they represent and the purpose for which Christ calls us to “remember His death”. We see that God wants us to partake (“let a man examine.....so let him eat...” **vs-28**) but He commands and desires that we first obey Him by confessing our sin and focusing our adoration and thanks on Christ and Him crucified. It is a serious thing to God when a person treats Christ’s sacrifice and suffering with contempt and mockery. Some do that very thing as false professing believers as in **Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

Suggestion for prayer: Pray that God would help you to forever remember and treasure the sacrifice of Jesus and demonstrate genuine faith to His glory.

**THURSDAY** –We see that self-examination is the command of God in our text (**vs. 28**). The word is dokimazo in the Greek which means “to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals, to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy”. We must have examined ourselves and then acquired a renewed hatred for our sin and a right attitude toward Christ’s redeeming work as we approach the table. As J.C. Ryle has said, “Sinners living in open sin, determined not to give it up, ought on no account to come to The Lord’s Table. To do so is a

positive insult to Christ, and to pour contempt on His gospel. It is nonsense to profess we desire to remember Christ’s death, while we cling to the accursed thing which made it needful for Christ to die”. Read **Psalm 32**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?*

Suggestion for prayer: Like David, cry out to God for forgiveness of sin and then rejoice in His grace and mercy to forgive and wash you clean.

**FRIDAY** –We find also in our text that there is a corporate aspect to coming to The Table. We understand that a man is to “*examine himself*”, but we also see the significance of using this time to get things right with the brethren and that God uses The Table as a place to help purify His church. There is chastisement of sin that comes upon those who would not only mock the sacrifice of Christ’s death but also destroy the unity that the Table represents between Christ and His people—the church. **Verses 30-32** spell this out in specific detail. Notice the chastisement (*weak, sick, sleep-“death”*) that comes upon TRUE believers who eat unworthily. Tomorrow we will elaborate on this further. Read **Hebrews 12:5-11**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God that He chastises you if you are a true child of His. Praise Him for corrective Fatherly discipline and love.

**SATURDAY** –As we said yesterday there are those who eat unworthily and are “*guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*” who don’t receive chastening now (in this life) from God. They are NOT true Christians. **Verse 32** explains that God chastens only His children so that “*we may not be condemned with the world*”. Believers are safe from eternal hell by both God’s divine decree and also His divine intervention. God will correct sin in His children through chastening or remove them by physical death in order to keep them from eternal condemnation. Read **Romans 8:1, 1 Corinthians 5:4-7, 1 John 5:16-17**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God for the Sacrifice for our sins—the cross.