

Bible Teachings
on
Feet Washing
and
The Lord's Supper



Feet Washing

Feet washing is something that we seldom read about, and sometimes some who profess to be God's people omit it. Nevertheless, it is still in God's Word, and He still requires His children to partake of this ordinance.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinance of feet washing, and we find this blessed event recorded in John 13:4-5: "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." When Jesus came to Peter to wash his feet, he said, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" Jesus told him that what He was doing he would not understand then but would later. Verses 8-9 read: "Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." Jesus gave His disciples a good lesson in humility and brotherly love when He washed their feet. This lesson should carry right down to the present saints of God.

When Jesus finished washing the disciples feet, He said to them in verses 13-15: "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Verse 17 states, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Dear brother or sister, helping the poor, going about doing good deeds, and being faithful at your place of worship is not to replace

washing the saints' feet. Feet washing is an ordinance that God wants His children to do. We read in 1 Timothy 5:10, "Let not a widow well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."

You may be wondering when and how this ordinance should be done. We believe, as recorded in the Bible, that the feet washing service should take place before the Lord's supper and as often as the Lord's supper. Also, everything should be done in decency and in order, with the brothers washing the brothers' feet and the sisters washing the sisters' feet.

Beloved, feet washing is something that the professing church world wants nothing to do with, but when this ordinance is supervised by the Holy Spirit among God's people, it is a real blessing to the saints who partake of it, knowing they have obeyed the Word of God.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's supper, or communion service as people sometimes call it, is quite misunderstood by many churches throughout the land. God never intended this holy ordinance to be the means of a person obtaining salvation, nor for any special merit in Heaven. Our beloved Brother Paul made this very clear when he penned these words concerning the Lord's supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26: "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."

The different reasons we have for partaking of this service are as follows: First, we know that we have been born again of the Spirit of God (John 3:3,7). Second, we are living holy lives before God and our fellowman (Titus 2:12). Third, we show the world that we believe that Christ died for our sins and that by repenting we are made new creatures in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The person who has not had a definite experience of salvation through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus

Christ (1 John 1:7) has no right to partake of the Lord's supper. If he or she does, the Bible says that the wrath (or anger) of God will be upon that person. First Corinthians 11:27 tells us, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

May this tract give more understanding to God's people on these two subjects and may more people realize that God says what He means and means what He says.

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