

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

-realizing the power of a life in Christ-

COMMUNION – AN INVALUABLE GIFT FROM JESUS FOR US IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME

As we believers draw ever closer to the end of this age, we are experiencing ever greater challenges. Out in the world society we see all types of behaviors and actions that hurt our hearts and are clearly anti-Christian. And we hear positions put forward by leaders of the government and other organizations that are opposite the commands and guidance of God and the Bible. And here we are, in the midst of it all. There are heresies abounding in many areas of some formal religious organizations. Some famous leaders look for ways to put Islam and Christianity together, which we know is not acceptable. They are false prophets. Recently even one important Biblical translation ministry removed references to God as Father and references to Jesus as the Son of God in a new translation of the Bible. They even used the word Allah as a translation for God, all this in an effort not to offend Muslims. But who cares if they are offended? Truth is truth. From the very beginning, in the original Bible texts, God is our Father, Jesus is the Son of God, and most certainly Allah is not our God. Allah is the name of a moon god adopted by Mohammed years ago. Thankfully it appears this organization may be recanting, but how did they come up with such blatant heresy? Because they were misguided. By whom? You know by whom. By satan and his forces. Remember, satan is the father of lies. That is why Jesus warned us so about watching that we are not deceived. (see last month's newsletter).

This is all so troubling to a child of God, to a member of the Kingdom of God. I expect your heart actually hurts when you read some of the above. In these increasingly dark days as we approach the Tribulation and Jesus' return to collect his believers, one step you should consider is taking Communion more often. I recommend you take it often at home, whether by yourself or with your family or friends. Communion has a way of putting you in touch with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit. A wonderful time just to sit in the presence of God is after taking Communion. It is also a wonderful time to pray.

Some people unfortunately have been misled in the past to think they have to be in a church somewhere with a formal member of the clergy administering Communion. Not true. Jesus never said that. He just said to do this as often as we do it in memory of him.

The bread and the wine are symbols of Jesus and what he did for us. He is our sacrificial lamb, slain for our salvation, for our forgiveness, for our healing, and so much more in order to reconcile us to God and allow us to be in the Kingdom of God. Jesus' sacrifice was foreshadowed way back in Exodus 12 when God told the Israelites in Egypt to kill unblemished lambs or goats, cook and eat the meat, put the blood on the doorposts of their homes, and stay inside on the night they did this. At that time the angel of death passed over, leaving them alive and well but killing the first-born of all the Egyptians. And if you remember, that is when the Egyptian pharaoh gave permission for the Israelites to leave Egypt. They did, perhaps 2 million or so, and the Bible tells us there was not a feeble one among them. So any who had been ill had been healed in this practice of eating the lamb or goat, and their lives had been saved by the blood on the doorposts.

All this was a forecast of what Jesus was to do in going to and through the cross. He took upon himself all our sins, all our sicknesses and diseases and pains, and we know – by his stripes we are healed and made whole. We are forgiven! We have life eternal with Jesus and the Father. We are freed from curses of the law and rather have the blessings of Abraham, we are freed from shame and regret, we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, we are rich and not poor, we have peace with God, and ...well, it is amazing all Jesus did for us. But the key point here is that he was our sacrificial lamb. It is this amazing sacrifice and his rising from the dead and total victory over evil and all that separated people from God that we commemorate in the upcoming “Easter” season.

Communion recognizes all that. It causes us to reflect on who Jesus is, all he did for us, and who we are in him. Bread and wine – the body and the blood. You know, in the book of John, Jesus says that unless we eat his body and drink his blood, we have no life in us. Clearly, he means we must have him in us. Communion is all about that too – we eat his body and drink his blood. Jesus in us and we in him.

As some of you know, we have a wonderful CD, *Healing in Communion*, available which explains all this and takes you through doing Communion at home. If you would like that, just request it from our web site or by sending in the enclosed form. These are times when you must stand on your faith and all that means. You must stand on the truths of the Bible and on Jesus’ words to you. Taking Communion regularly is an amazing help. You will find yourself growing in your spiritual life and in your connection to the Holy Spirit, to Jesus, to God the Father.

DON'T MISS “A WATCHMAN WARNING!”

Don’t forget to send us your email address if you have not so you can receive “*A WATCHMAN WARNING*,” and other key communications that go out only by email. *A WATCHMAN WARNING* can also be found on our web site and on my blog.

DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

We are so very grateful to those who support this ministry by their contributions, their prayers, and their volunteer efforts, as well as by attending ministry programs. As noted last newsletter, these have been difficult years for the world economy. Many of those who contribute to Christian ministries and churches have also been experiencing hard times, and their contributions have been affected. I ask that those of you who can please consider increasing your monthly partnership even by a small amount or consider becoming a regular monthly contributor if you have not been one. That is how the ministry goes forward. God supplies through people like you who are led to contribute.

May God strengthen you and equip you to be ready to deal with all you will be confronting in these last days, and may you always live in his abundant blessings. And always, **Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!**

John

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Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408 * 910 395 1465 * Fax: 910 395 1569
www.johnnewlinministries.org Email: info@johnnewlinministries.org