



"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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MEETING PLACE

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Family reunions have great memories for me as a young boy. Every time I pass a roadside park in Ohio I always say to whoever is in the car with me, "This is the place we had our family reunions when I was a young boy. It is still very dear to me."

The Lord's Supper is a meeting place, whether in the catacombs of Rome, in the concentration camps of Germany, or in the safety of our modern churches, the Lord's Supper has always been the meeting place for Christ and His followers.

In **Luke 22:15**, Christ said to His Apostles, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Christ said this just hours before He went to the cross. I can only imagine the compassion that He had for them at that time, and He is just as eagerly desiring to break the Bread and share the Cup of the New Covenant with us today!

The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not "church ordinances", they are ordinances of Christ, given to the Church by the Lord! The faith-only believers tell us you are saved without baptism, that it is just a choice. In **Matthew 21:25** Jesus asked the question about the baptism practiced by John the Baptist, (that was the forerunner of the Christian Baptism we practice today), "Was it from Heaven or from man?"

The growth experts tell us there is too much dead time in Communion, someone may lose interest and so we stopped giving instructions. To save time, we move the emblems to the lobby and serve from the back and it becomes a formality. Some have moved it to a side room and made it just a choice. It is a

short distance from a formality to just a choice. It is not the church's table it is the Lord's Table.

I think William Barclay is right when he wrote, "**Without instructions to precede it, the Lord's Supper degenerates into either formalism or superstition.**"

We need to ask the same thing about the Lord's Supper that Christ asked about baptism. "Is it from Heaven or from man?" When Christ was on the cross and said to His Father in Heaven, "It is finished", He was telling Him the mission He sent Him was done, and He had already instituted the Lord's Supper. I think that tells us it is from Heaven.

I think as long as we understand that it is the Lord's Table and it is from Heaven and not from man and that Christ still has the same desire and passion to meet His Church around His Table now, as He did then, that it will not become just a formality, and we will say, "This is where we have our family reunions with Christ and His Church."