

“Broken and Poured Out”

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Those who argue against a weekly observance of the Lord's Supper often say that this frequent partaking of the Supper makes it ordinary, commonplace, and trivial. There is, of course, this possibility. We might come to the table and go through the motions without contemplating the real meaning of our observance of the Supper. However, the charge is not necessarily true. If I observe a photograph of my parents on a weekly basis, my memory of them is no less than it would be if I looked at their picture only once a year. The real question of a weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is not, "Will it become ordinary?", but rather, "What does Jesus want?" The evidence from Scripture and history is that the disciples of the first century did observe the Supper on each first day of the week. Whether the Supper becomes commonplace or not is determined not by frequency, but by how we prepare ourselves to partake. As we come to the table we break the bread remembering that Jesus' flesh was broken for us. We pour out the cup remembering that Jesus' blood was poured out for us. I prefer to speak of Jesus' blood as being poured out instead of spilled because spilled implies an accident and poured out implies done on purpose. Further, as we come to the table let us remember as we break the bread that we bring our broken lives to him (we are broken by sin). Let us remember that our wills are broken as we commit ourselves to do his will. As we pour out the cup as we drink, let us remember that our lives are to be "poured out as a drink offering" to him and for him (Phil. 2:17). This reference to sacrifice used by Paul is a clear indication that we are to offer ourselves to Christ in complete submission to his will (Rom. 12:2). Let us come to the table each Sunday and, as we come, let us remember the sacrifice of Christ in the breaking of the bread and the pouring out of the cup. Let us also remember that we bring our broken lives to him for healing, that our wills are broken to his will, and that our lives are poured out to him in sacrifice. By so doing the Supper will never become ordinary, commonplace, or trivial.