

## Scripture Readings for Communion

All Christians should look at our assembly for communion as the highlight of the week. It is to be a special purpose (the Lord's Supper—1 Corinthians 11:20) on a special day (the Lord's Day—Revelation 1:9). The more preparation we put into it, the more we will benefit from it. Most churches sing a song to prepare our minds. For the same reason, a scripture reading about the suffering of Jesus also can help us focus on our purpose for communion.

There are many passages that we may use. It would be good to use a variety of them. In this issue of the *Benton Banner*, an insert is being included which contains some suggested passages for your meditation during communion or for one of the men at the Lord's Table to read before we partake of the bread. Making some remarks about the reading may also be helpful, but if one feels too nervous to do that, he can still read a short passage that will certainly be helpful.

I also want to make mention of what I did when I presided at the table to serve communion. I read a scripture before we partook, and I read another one after we partook. This was because it made a smoother transition to the next part of the service and concludes the Lord's Supper without actually having to use the words, "The Lord's Supper is now concluded," which is often done to prevent people from conflating the collection with the communion. Now we do that by singing the final verse or two of the song sung before communion. This practice accomplishes the same transition, and gives more emphasis to the meaning of the verses that we sing.

I hope that you will use this insert in your private meditation or Bible study at home. The passages are listed by category so you can look for a passage that is most appropriate for the idea you want to consider more deeply. I also will make a short note by each passage listed in order to be even more specific about its use for this purpose. May all our efforts to improve our worship to God be to His glory, especially in helping us to better do the most important thing we will do each week (**Acts 20:7**).

## PASSAGES FOR COMMUNION

**Teaching about the Lord's Supper:** Acts 2:42; 20:6-7; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; **11:17-34**

Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper: **Matt. 26:26-30**; Mk. 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-21

**Prayer at Gethsemane:** Matt. 26:36-46, **Mk. 14:32-42**; Luke 22:39-46; Hebrews 5:5-9

Betrayal and arrest: Matt. 26:47-56; Mk. 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-11

Before Pilate: Matt. 27:11-31; Mk. 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16

**On the cross:** Matt. 27:33-54; Mk. 15:22-39; **Luke 23:26-47**; John 19:17-37

**The resurrection:** Matt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-12, 13-35, 36-47; John 20:1-9, 19-31

**Prophecies about Jesus' suffering:** Genesis 3:1-15; 22:1-18; Psalm 16:7-11; **22:1-21**; 69:1-9, 19-21, 32-33; 109:1-9; Isaiah 50:4-7; **52:13-53:12**; Zechariah 11:4-14; 13:1-9

**New Testament passages about Jesus' suffering:**

"God so loved the world" John 3:13-21

"I lay down my life" John 10:14-18

"If I be lifted up, will draw all men to Myself" John 12:23-33

Summary of the gospel Acts 2:22-24; 3:13-26; 4:8-12; 10:34-43; 13:26-33

Demonstration of God's righteousness **Romans 3:21-26**

Demonstration of God's love **Romans 5:1-11**

Death, burial, and resurrection 1 Cor. 15:1-8

He became a curse for us Galatians 3:7-13

Blessings and forgiveness through His blood Eph. 1:3-7; Colossians 1:13-20

Reconciliation in one body Ephesians 2:13-18; Col. 2:11-15

The mind of Christ **Philippians 2:5-11**

Know the fellowship of His suffering Philippians 3:10-14

If we died with Him we shall also live with Him" 2 Tim. 2:11-13

Christ gave Himself for us and redeemed us Titus 2:11-14

"When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared..." Titus 3:3-8

He tasted death for each one **Hebrews 2:9-18**

He offered Himself once for all for our sins Hebrews 7:25-28

He offered His own blood; no remission without it **Hebrews 9:11-15, 22-28**

"a body You have prepared for Me" **Hebrews 10:5-18**

Redeemed by His precious blood 1 Peter 1:17-21

Isaiah 53 fulfilled **1 Peter 2:21-25**

By this we know love 1 John 3:16-23

God is love 1 John 4:7-11

The spiritual events when Jesus died Revelation 12:7-11