

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**First week of September**

**BERNARDSHAW**

**Destined to be HIS disciples**  
**Determined to make disciples**



**[WOW MINISTRIES]**

*The spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed - Luke 4:18*

# SCRIPTURE PORTION

## WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

(CONTINUATION OF LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE)

### MORALS

The apostle Paul was clearly concerned about the way that the Corinthian church was observing the Lord's Supper.

Instead of carrying out the instructions which Jesus had given, and which Paul had passed on to them at an early date, the Corinthian believers seem to have been turning the service into an occasion for feasting and fun. They were bringing along their own food to the Lord's Supper, and were having private feasts within the meeting instead of within their own homes.

The divisions within the church – which Paul had exposed and opposed – were also manifesting themselves during the public worship. As far as the apostle was concerned, the division and the ungodly revelry were dishonouring the Lord's Supper and the body of Christ.

Paul insisted that the Corinthians were not giving enough thought to their actions, and that they had brought the judgement of God down upon themselves.

In this important passage, Paul sets the Lord's Supper in the context of fellowship. *Koinonia* – 'fellowship' or 'sharing' – is a key characteristic of the church, and in 10:16 Paul interprets the Supper in terms of *koinonia*, of sharing.

Paul shows that the Lord's Supper is in some way a sharing in the sacrifice of Christ. Just as the Jews relived the experience of the exodus in the Passover, so believers participate in the sacrifice of Christ by identifying themselves with it in the Supper, and by committing themselves to the mission of Christ.

This is why Paul insists, in 10:21, that it is morally impossible to share in both the Lord's Supper and any form of idol worship. By fellowshiping in Christ's death through the Supper, we are automatically excluded from any fellowship which compromises our position in Christ.

Paul's one loaf and one body ideas in 10:17 make it clear that Christian fellowship includes all who participate in Christ, and that all are united in one loaf/body.

According to Paul, therefore, the Lord's Supper has an in-built requirement for unity – which means that there are profound practical moral implications about sharing in the Supper. Quite simply, we should not dare to share in the Lord's Supper if we are not sharing with all others who fellowship in-and-with Christ.

In 11:29, Paul states that those who participate in the Supper without discerning the body are condemned – this presumably refers to those who do not maintain the purity of the body. Paul warns against having fellowship with immoral people throughout 1 Corinthians, and this illustrates just how seriously God views *koinonia*.

The fellowship aspect of the Lord's Supper was also affected by the Corinthians' wrong approach to the meal. Paul argues that the integrity of the body is violated when some eat well and others go hungry. The Lord's Supper should not focus on different styles of living, and Paul insists that those who are hungry should eat at home. This shows that the spiritual dimension of the Lord's Supper is paramount – arguments about the size of the bread and the flavour of the wine completely miss the spiritual point of the meal.

1 Corinthians contains Paul's clearest teaching about the Lord's Supper, and establishes that it should be central in Christian Worship today. In 11:24-25 Paul stresses that the Supper is essentially an act of memorial.

In the Jewish Passover, the head of each household retold the story of the exodus to remind the worshippers that they were living in the good of those events. In the same way, during the Lord's Supper, worshippers are obliged to remember the cost of the Lord's death and to recognise that they are living in its achievements.

In 11:26, Paul shows that the memorial Supper is a proclamation and a participation, not a re-enactment. It proclaims the historic event at the centre of the Christian faith, within which we participate. The meal is not an attempt to keep alive something long dead, because it is not Christ's life which is remembered. The focus is on his saving death – an event of unique significance which reaches from the past, through the present, into the future, and forward into eternity.

Paul also shows that there is a future aspect of the Lord's Supper. In 11:26, he reveals that the memorial meal is to be the focus of church worship only in the present age, for no memorial will be necessary when Christ returns and is present in person.

# CHURCH NEWS

## SPONSORSHIPS

Hari, one of the youth members of our church was sponsored Rupees 2000 from the church towards his examination fees of his University studies. He is doing his Bachelor of Business Administration studies from the Madras University through post. He wanted to pursue his university studies from a regular college but his family's financial situation forced him to work. He sacrificed his dream of going to a college and started working as an attendant at a private Engineering college. He now supports his sister's education who is doing her final year of High School.



*"The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." - Luke 3:11*



Our church donated a set of school uniform to Prakash, another active member of the church's youth group.

(He is a real hard worker, doing his first year of his high school (Junior College) also working as a milk man, distributing milk pockets to all the houses in our neighbourhood to support his family's finance).

# OUTREACH



During our outreach ministry, we distributed 500 English tracts to the people who were at the Beach hanging out with their friends and spouses. It was the Thiruvanmiyur Beach that we chose last time around because that's the place where usually English

speaking crowd could be found. Our youth boys did a great job of giving away 500 tracts and because it was not much crowded and it was over cast as well.

# TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION

We celebrated the Teachers' Day at the church in remembrance of our teachers and to pray for them. Unfortunately, there were not many teachers except Victoria Bernard who was a professional teacher before she got married. We had a short time of speech on Teachers by few members which was really good. Finally, Victoria Bernard was felicitated to honour her for her selfless service as a teacher.

**“The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself.”**

Edward Bulwer-Lytton

In India *5th September* is celebrated as Teachers' day as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by teachers to the society. 5th September is the birthday of a great teacher *Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan*, who was a staunch believer of education, and was the well-known diplomat, scholar, president of India and above all a teacher.

When Dr. Radhakrishnan became the President of India in 1962, he was approached by some of his students and friends and requested him to allow them to celebrate 5th September, his "birthday". In reply, Dr. Radhakrishnan said, "instead of celebrating my birthday separately, it would be my proud privilege if September 5 is observed as Teachers' day". The request showed Dr. Radhakrishnan's love for the teaching profession. From then onwards, the day has been observed as Teachers' Day in India.

# OUR NEEDS

Please pray for all the needs of our ministry:

- **Computer Printer**

We are in need of a colour laser printer which will help us to be more effective in communicating with our friends and prayer partners and in all correspondence.

- **Church Planting**

We need Indian Rupees 35000 to construct a shed/temporary building for time being. We would love to build a proper building in the future as the Lord provides.

- **Shelter Home**

We need Indian Rupees 13000 per month to take care of the boys which includes their food, travel expenses (to & fro to School), cooking stuff and etc. and 5000 per month for the building rent and so altogether we would need Indian Rupees 18000 per month to run the Home.

# PRAYER POINTS

- **Ram's mother:** Suffering from severe stomach pain for the past few days. Has been running up and down to the hospitals all over Chennai. Please pray for healing.
- **Beulah:** For marriage. Has been getting quite a few proposals but nothing seems to work out.
- **Bernard:** For completion of the audio album.
- **Victoria Bernard:** For good health. Has been struggling with food consumption. Pray for the baby's healthy growth inside her womb.
- **Annie Sebastian:** For a complete healing from Diabetes. Has been sick of late with high temperature, cold and cough.
- **Mercy:** For safe delivery of her baby. Child birth is expected at the end of this month.

Thanks a lot for taking time to pray for all the people mentioned above.

AMEN.