

These Perilous Times

Vol. 8 No. 7 April 7, 2017

What do God's People Believe?

Part XVI

Growing up in the 1950's was a very distinctive time for many American families. Especially at supper time. In those days many hard-working moms, {"Housewives"} didn't have to work outside of the home, [though a mom's work at home required much more patience and refined skills than most employment outside of the home] to make ends meet because of a skyrocketing economy.

That meant that everyone was at home at supper time and *ate meals together, discussing the various activities of their day as a family*. We actually spoke to one another face to face, something very rare in today's society.

I'm reminded of how Jesus on many occasions spent time sharing His kingdom while seated at a supper table, or a sharing a boy's lunch at a 5000-seat banquet on a mountain side. People shared a meal together

as they listened to His encouraging discourses and timely messages pertaining to this life, and the life to come...

What does that mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

Seventh-day Adventists believe...

16. The Lord's Supper

"Some churches have put a literal interpretation on Jesus' words, 'This is my body' and 'this is my blood,' but Seventh-day Adventist interpret them figuratively.

Jesus often stated other truths symbolically, such as "I am the gate," {John 10:7} but obviously He didn't mean that He was literally a gate.

Similarly, the unleavened bread and the unfermented wine are symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus, not His literal body and blood.¹

Usually following a *short sermon men and women separate and go to different rooms* in the

¹ We Believe, "Signs of the Times Magazine-Special Edition," pp. 19.

church for the service of foot washing. This represents the cleansing from sin, {John 13:1-17}.

While there is no particular merit in the act itself, it provides the participants with and opportunity both before and during the service to settle their differences and confess their faults to each other... ²

“The Lord’s Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus Christ as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour.

*In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake we joyfully proclaim, the Lord’s death until He comes again. **Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession.***

The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christ-like humility, and to unite our heart in love.

The communion service is open to all believers, “ ³

² Ibid. 20.

³ Seventh-day Adventist Believe, “A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs,” 2005, pp. 225- 236.

{I Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Matt. 26:17-30; Rev. 3:20; John 6:18-63; 13:1-17, Emphasis supplied}.

