

## REMEMBER ME

Jesus instructed believers to remember his life, his death, his resurrection, and his promise that he will come again. In essence, Jesus said, "Come before me in the company of other believers in a spirit of humility and gratitude to confess your sins, gain new strength, power, and courage to move forward in your Christian life. Remember me and resolve to mend broken relationships, resist evil temptations, and with new determination, seek my strength to be a better person day by day."

You may have questions about Communion which are not addressed in this pamphlet. We encourage you to explore them further.

*The text of this brochure is edited and adapted by John Oakes from "The Lord's Supper," a pamphlet originally published by the North American Baptist Conference. Biblical citations are from the New International*

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If you need further help in understanding Communion, please contact Dr. John Oakes. He is willing and able to assist you in exploring its meaning and significance.

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*"After taking the cup, Jesus gave thanks and said, 'Take this and divide it among you.' And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'"*

**(Luke 22:17, 19)**

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**EBENEZER BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

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Jesus willingly gave his life to save us from the penalty and power of sin. By placing our faith in Jesus, and what he did for us when he died on the cross, we are forgiven and no longer need to carry the heavy burden of sin in our hearts and minds.

What Jesus did for us is wonderful and he wants us to remember what he did. The Gospels tell us how Jesus instituted a rite of remembrance for his followers at the Last Supper with his disciples (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20). Many churches refer to this as Holy Communion or simply Communion. It is also called the Eucharist or the Lord's Table. Baptist churches often observe Communion monthly.

Jesus' words, "Do this in remembrance of me," remind us that Communion is also an ordinance—a prescription for a healthy, meaningful Christian life. With baptism, it is traditionally one of the two sacraments which Christ gave to his church. It is a means of grace whereby we remember the One who gave his life to pay the ransom that has set us free from the bondage of sin. Jesus gave his life on the cross of Calvary for our salvation, our redemption.

Taking Communion is important because it expresses and celebrates the intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and the fellowship with other believers which have been made possible by his death, burial, and resurrection. We share this relationship with the assembly of believers gathered in the local church.

### Communion is an important occasion:

- To remind us of our intimate relationship with Jesus
- To confirm the commitments made at baptism.
- To confess our sin and seek spiritual renewal
- To make new spiritual commitments.

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When taking Communion, a Christian affirms the truth that Jesus came to earth to redeem everyone who will believe in him. As believers we receive the bread and the cup, symbols of his body and blood, to remind us of his great sacrifice for us.

In I Corinthians 11:28, Scripture suggests that, before participating in a Communion service, we should examine our hearts and ask God's forgiveness.

The bread we receive represents Jesus' body which was broken, crucified, as a sacrifice for our sins. As Isaiah, the Prophet, wrote, "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his

wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5). The cup represents Jesus' blood which flowed from his body as payment for our sins. When we participate in a Communion service, we remember the great redemptive act of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

Participation in a Communion service does not guarantee forgiveness of sins. A person participates in the fellowship of the bread and the cup after having entered into a life-saving relationship with Jesus Christ, by faith in his death, burial, and resurrection.

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Before participating in a Communion service, it is important to spend time remembering what Jesus really did for us. We should come to the table in a sober and thoughtful manner, recognizing the significance of the event. It is a time of confession, restoration, and recommitment to a life in tune with the will of God.

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A Communion service is also a time of communal celebration and fellowship! We can rejoice in our salvation. Jesus won! He overcame death that we might have life. The Lord's Table is also a pledge and reminder of the great joy which will be ours when we meet him face to face.

