

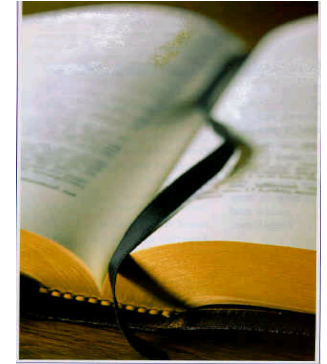
The Lord's Table

Bible Basics Conference

14-15 November 2015

Michael Hardt





The Lord's Table

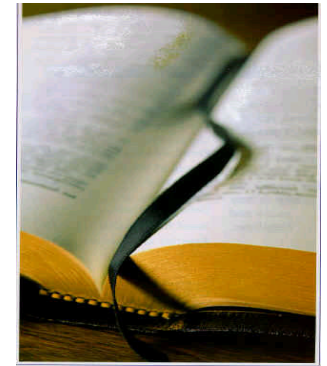
1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Wherefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

*I speak as to intelligent persons: do *ye* judge what I say.*

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of the Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of the Christ?

Because we, being many, are one loaf, one body; for we all partake of that one loaf.



The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

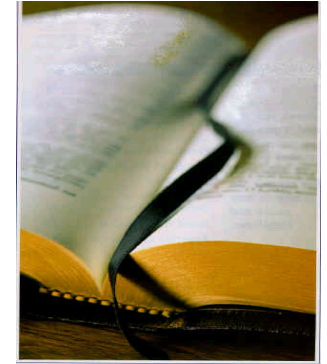
See Israel according to flesh: are not they who eat the sacrifices in communion with the altar?

What then do I say? that what is sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?

But that what the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to demons, and not to God. Now I do not wish you to be in communion with demons.

Ye cannot drink the Lord's cup, and the cup of demons: ye cannot partake of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons.

Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?



The Lord's Table

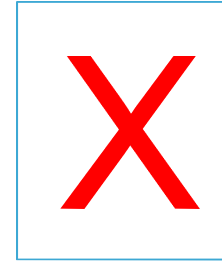
1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- In the Bible a table speaks of fellowship / communion
- Every table / fellowship is characterised by a set of principles



Let me tell you a secret...

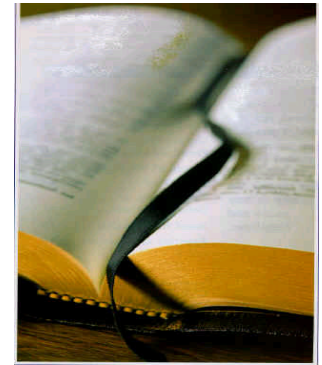
...I also have a table



1 Corinthians 10:14-22

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



- Every table / fellowship is characterised by a set of principles

Some examples:

1 Sam. 20: 24-34,

2 Sam. 9:7-13

1 Kings 4:27 & 10:5

Neh. 5:17

Psa. 23:5

Mt. 15:27

Mt. 21:12

1. Cor. 10:21

Saul's table

David's table

Solomon's table

Nehemiah's table

Thou preparest a table before me

the table of their (the dogs') masters

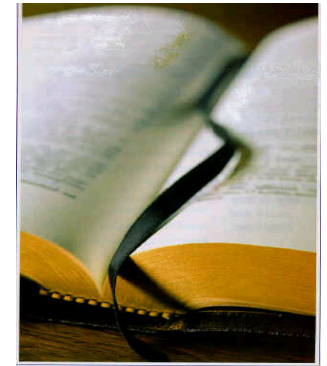
the table of the money changers

the Lord's table



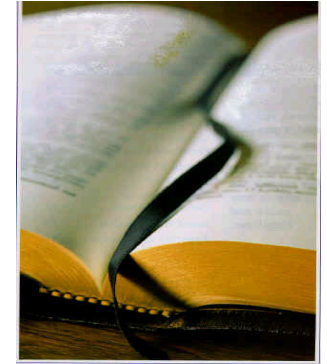
The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



So... what, then,
are the principles
connected with the
Lord's table?

The answer is in
1. Cor. 10



The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- The expression 'the Lord's table' occurs only once in the NT (1. Cor. 10:21)
- This verse speaks of 'partaking' of it
 - How do we do this?
 - By eating of the bread and drinking of the cup

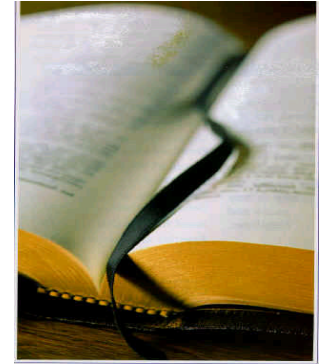


"The cup of blessing which we bless" (v.16a)

"The bread which we break" (v.16b)

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

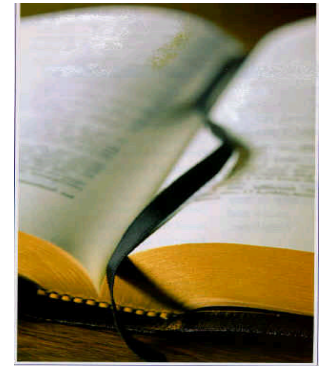


*So... is the
Lord's table the
same then?*

*No – they are two
very different
aspects of the
same thing*

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



The Lord's table (1.Cor.10)

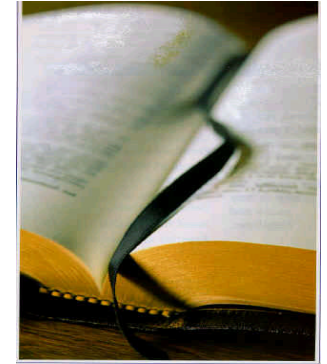
- Speaks of fellowship (not a wooden table...)
- Implies responsibility
- Partaking of the Lord's table has implications for the entire week



The Lord's supper (1.Cor.11)

- Is the meal itself
- Taken for remembrance
- When the assembly has come together
- How we conduct ourselves on the occasion





The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- The starting point for Paul's teaching re the Lord's table:

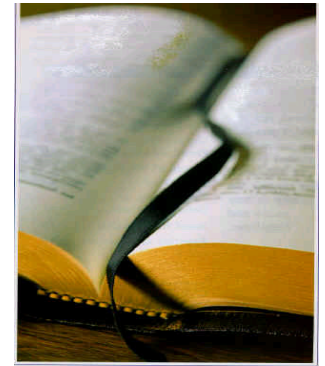
"Wherefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry" (v.14)

- The Corinthians did not consider themselves idolaters
- But some of them went to the idols' temple to eat meat
- Paul explains an important principle:

"Outward action implies close communion"

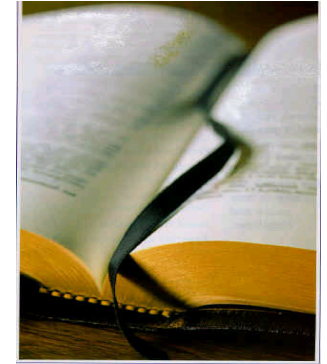
The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



*“Wherefore, my **beloved**, flee from idolatry.” (v.14)*

- The Corinthians had gone wrong – but were still ‘beloved’ ones
- Paul proves his love for them
 - by correcting them
 - In the way he does it.



The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

*"I speak as to **intelligent** persons: do *ye* judge what I say" (v.15)*

- The diplomacy of love:
 - He treats the Corinthians as 'intelligent'
 - He asks them to judge

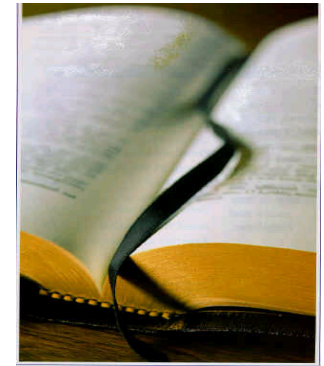
The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



- Paul mentions the cup first
 - Contrary to the historical order – why?
 - → The thought of the blood of Christ is designed to make us shrink from sin
- Drinking of the cup implies communion
 - By drinking of this cup I express that:
 - Christ died for me
 - He has rights over me

“Outward action implies close communion”



The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of the Christ?

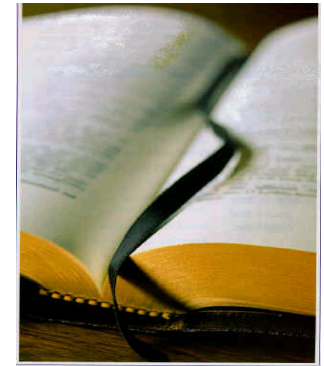
(v.16)

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



- Eating of the bread also implies communion
 - He gave His body
 - It was for me that He died!



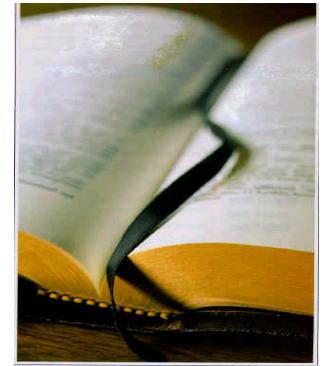
“The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of the Christ?”

(v.16 b)

“Outward action implies close communion”

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



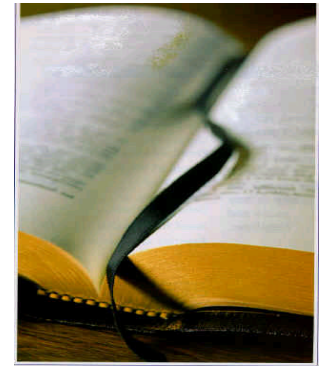
*Because we, being many, are one loaf, one body;
for we all partake of that one loaf. (v.17)*



- The bread / loaf has two meanings:
 - Verse 16: the physical body of Christ
 - Verse 17: the church as body of Christ
- This is the basis on which we break bread (inclusive side):
 - The unity of the body of Christ (we break bread as members of His body!)
 - **Not: as 'members' of this or that church!**

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



*Because we, being many, are one loaf, one body;
for we all partake of that one loaf. (v.17)*

- “We, being many”
 - The Apostle includes himself (‘we’)
 - He speaks of all believers, not just those in Corinth
 - Every believer is a member of the body of Christ

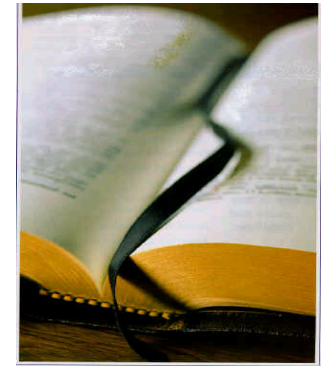


- This is really important because:
 - By taking the bread we express that we are members of His body
 - Breaking bread is not an individual matter but a matter of fellowship.

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

...for we all partake of that one loaf. (v.17)



- Membership?
 - Only of the body of Christ
 - No other membership required
 - Being a member of a denomination flies in the face of the truth of the body of Christ.



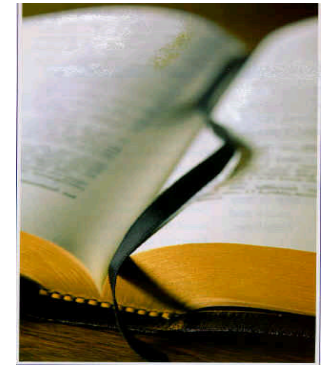
- How can we express unity?
 - Forming an alliance
 - Starting a new 'church'
 - Bringing together all Christians in one place
 - Breaking bread on the ground of the one body of Christ*



* Note: This is the deepest expression of the unity of the body of Christ. In addition, this unity is also shown in other ways

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



- Paul gives an OT example:
- Eating of the sacrifice
 - Not a normal meal only
 - An action that expressed communion with the altar

“Outward action implies close communion”

- God had said the altar would be ‘most holy’ (Ex. 29:37)
- Eating of the sacrifice therefore implied a high responsibility
- Only those who were clean were allowed to eat (Lev. 7:19)

“See Israel according to flesh: are not they who eat the sacrifices in communion with the altar?”

(v.18)

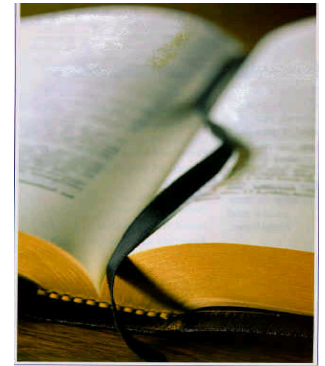
The Lord's Table

A Christian magazine recently published this:

“Undoubtedly the view of ‘the Lord’s Table’ given here [in 1. COR. 10] embraces the whole Christian company at all times, and not only when gathered together; for the analogy referred to as to ‘Israel after the flesh’ eating of the sacrifices is, no doubt, ~~the peace-offering, of which all Israel partook~~. In so doing they were in fellowship with the altar; and so also as to the cup and the bread at the Lord’s Table, ~~all true Christians are contemplated as participating.~~”

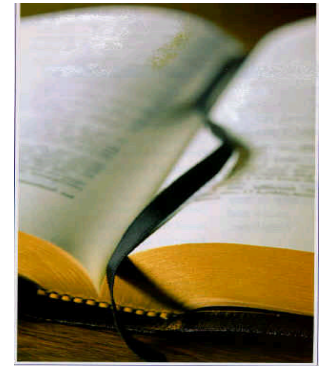
Lev. 7:19

1. Cor. 10:19



The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



“What then do I say? that what is sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?” (v.19)

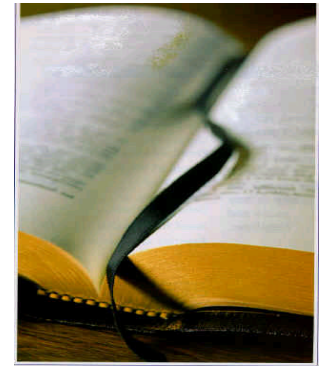
- Now he comes to the problem in hand: idolatry (or, rather, association with it)
- The Corinthians knew that an idol was ‘nothing’
- They concluded that, therefore, it was no problem to go to the idols’ temple
- Why? Because they did not believe in the idols.
- **But: this conclusion was wrong!**



Temple of Apollo in Corinth

The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



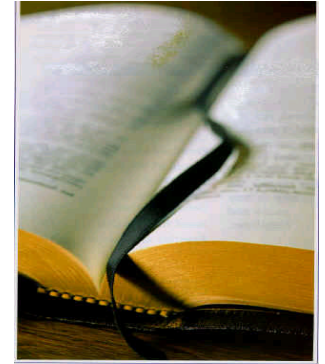
“But that what the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to demons, and not to God”. (v.20 a)

- The Corinthians knew that the idols were nothing – **BUT: the heathens didn't know it...**
 - They (the heathens) believed in the idols
 - Behind the idols there are demons!



The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)



“Now I do not wish you to be in communion with demons.” (v.20)

- This sentence must have come as a shock to the Corinthians
- By going to the place of idolatry they expressed:
 - Something they did not want
 - But they still did have:

- Fellowship with demons!

“Outward action implies close communion”

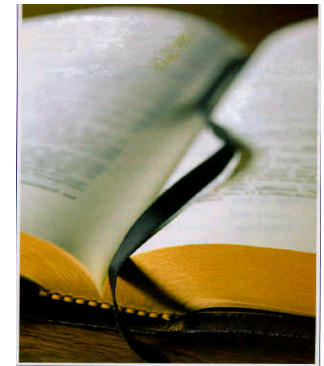
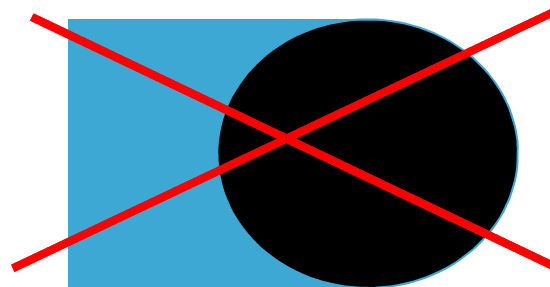
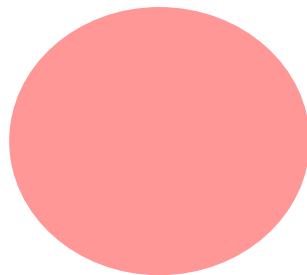
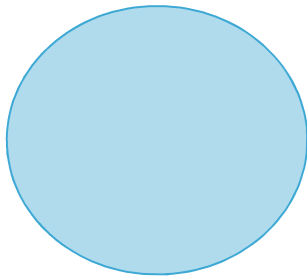
The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- Here is the conclusion:
- Both cups express a certain fellowship
- Remember:

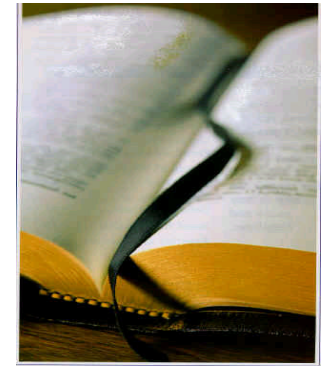
“Outward action implies close communion”

- Two fellowships:
 1. With the blood of Christ
 2. With demons
- These are **MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE!**



*Ye cannot
drink the
Lord's cup,
and the cup
of demons:*

1.Cor.10:21



The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- We have seen 4 examples illustrating the same principle

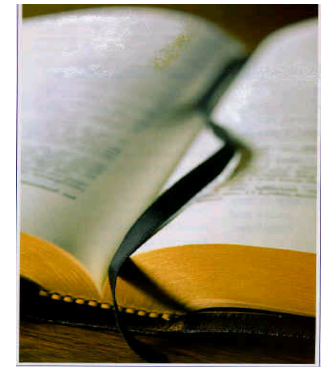
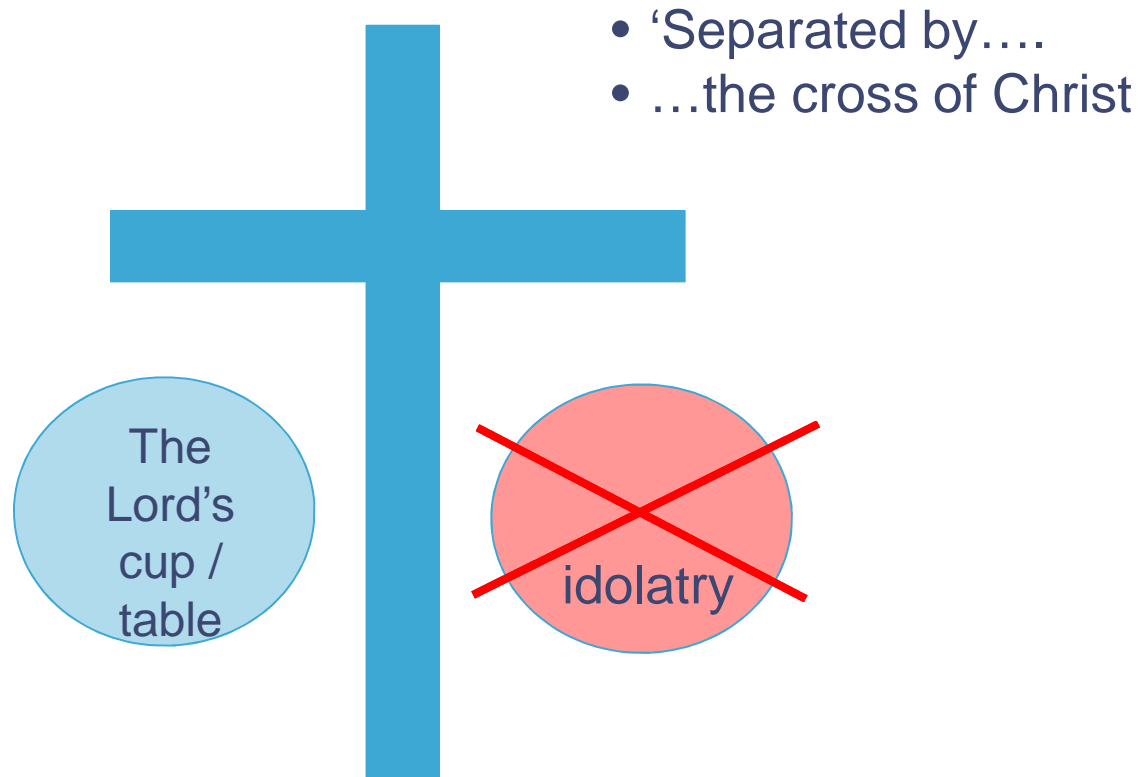
“Outward association (‘metocho’) implies close communion (‘koinonia’)”

Outward activity	Communion implied with
Blessing the cup	the blood of Christ
Breaking the bread	the body of Christ
Eating of the (Jewish) sacrifices	the altar of Israel
Sacrificing to idols	demons

The Lord's Table

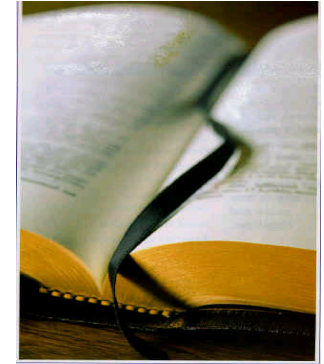
1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- 'Ye cannot': a moral impossibility
- Two mutually exclusive fellowships



...ye cannot partake of the Lord's table, and of the table of demons.

1. Cor. 10:21



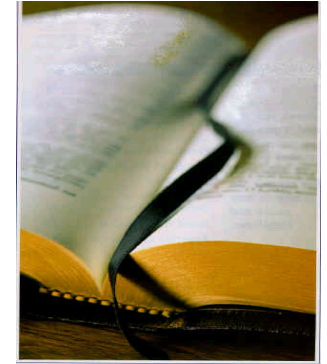
The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- You may say 'but idolatry is not an issue for us'
- The point for us is not idolatry but a principle

“Association with evil defiles”

- **Illustrated in many OT examples:**
 - Leprosy (Lev. 13-14; Num. 5:2.3)
 - Touching a dead body (Lev.6:1-3; Num.19; Hag. 2: 12)
- **Taught in the NT**
 - 2. Tim. 2:21 → separation from vessels to dishonour
 - 2. Joh. 9-11 → (not) greeting the heretic
 - 1. Cor. 10 → see previous slides
 - 1. Cor. 15:33 → Evil communications...
 - Rev. 2:14 → Association with those who hold wrong doctrine



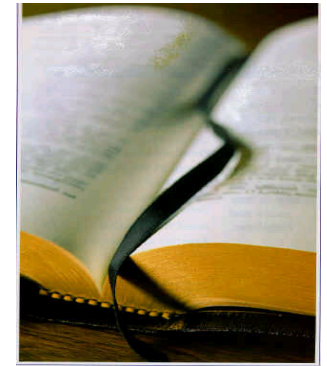
The Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 (cont'd)

- So how or where can you 'partake' of the Lord's table?
- Look out for the features of the Lord's table

1. The unity of the body of Christ ('one loaf')
2. Separation from evil including evil associations ('ye cannot')
3. The authority of the Lord Jesus (it is 'His' table).

- Where is the Lord's table today?
 - Look for these 3 principles... and the Lord will guide you!



Further Reading

Who Should Be At The Lord's Table? – by **C. H. Mackintosh**

The Lord's Table – by **J N Darby**

Lectures Introductory to the New Testament – by **William Kelly**

The Lord's Supper – by **William Kelly**

What is a Meeting of the Assembly? – by **H Rossier**

A Scriptural Inquiry respecting the Lord's Supper and the Lord's Table – by **C J Davies**

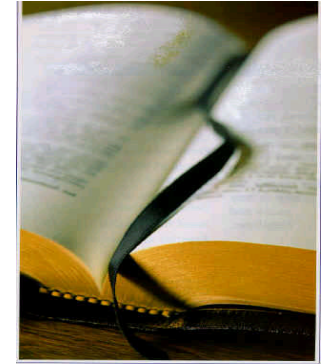
The Lord's Table, and Its Place in the Church – by **The Bible Treasury: Volume 12**

Letters : Volume 2, number 188 and 275 – by **J N Darby**

'The Lord's Table' – by **Edward Dennett**

The Lord's Table – by **J A Trench**

Keeping Christ's Word – by **Bible Treasury, New Series, Volume 7**



Further Reading

Christ and his Church (ch. 8) – by **W J Hocking**

Notes on the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians – by **William Kelly**

Comments on 1 Corinthians – by **F B Hole**

The First Epistle To The Corinthians – by **Hamilton Smith**

The First Epistle To The Corinthians – by **J N Darby**

Pertinent extracts from these articles can be found here <http://biblecentre.org/content.php?mode=7&item=2068>



Teach me thy
way, O
LORD;
I will walk in
thy truth.
Psalm 86:11