



*But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -*

**Matthew 15:9**

[invaindotheyworshipme.com](http://invaindotheyworshipme.com)

## **Would Head Banging Help?**

I'm looking around this room in search of an empty wall that would allow me to go bang my head on it without knocking something down in the process. I tried. I came close. I found lots of fascinating texts in the Bible that would go along with what I'm wanting to write about, however, the text I need eluded me.

What am I doing? There is a teaching that has led many people to fear the future and what God will do to them. But there is more to it than what the church has taught us. Or perhaps they misinterpreted the passage.

I have had concerns about this issue because what it says about God isn't very pretty. In fact, it's bum ugly. (Give me a break. I can't say "butt" in a document like this.) There had to be a better interpretation for this teaching and a few weeks ago Elkanah gave me the answer without knowing that I was wondering about it. In his own personal studies he ran across a passage that knocked that teaching out of the pond and made me a much happier camper.

Now I'm not so happy. I can't find that text and Elkanah can't remember where he read it. He can't remember any key words that would help a Bible search engine to locate the passage. He can't even remember what version of the Bible he read it in.

So I've been sitting here for over 6 hours trying to locate this text and so far no go. But I found a lot of stuff that hints toward a different interpretation than what we've been taught, but it's only a hint. I need that other text to be able to pull it all together.

Perhaps I'll eventually find the text and can share with you what has had me

busy for the past 6 ½ hours. For now, I'll share with you something I ran across while hunting for that elusive text.

The Seventh-day Adventist church celebrates the Ordinance of Humility once every 3 months. They do this by washing each others feet, partaking of a small piece of unleavened bread, and a half-swallow of unfirmented grape juice. Adventists are supposed to be abstinent when it comes to alcoholic beverages. People break rules and there are Adventists who break that rule but I'm not going to try to persuade you on that one. Personally I don't like alcohol and I don't like being around people who have been drinking. But this article isn't about alcohol so let's get on with it.

When Jesus was with his disciples for their last supper together before his crucifixion, he broke the bread and passed out the wine with the instructions to do this in remembrance of him. Adventists will tell you that he chose the acts of eating and drinking because those two things are something we are forced to do if we want to continue living. He didn't say to make a celebration out of it and stipulate how often you were to do it, he stated that when you eat or drink he wanted you to remember him. So by his own instructions, whenever we put something into our mouths with the intent of ingesting it, we are to remember him as we do that.

When I was growing up my parents weren't attending church. They gave me an Adventist education but I didn't live in a home that followed a lot of the more grievous list of no-no's. In fact, by their example I learned that it was OK to sin as long as other Adventists didn't find out about it. We shopped on Sabbath, went to movies, watched Saturday morning cartoons, my dad paid the bills on Sabbath morning, we frequently ate chicken, turkey, fish and cow (beef).

My brother joined the church when he was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and he immediately became a vegetarian. My mom was surprised that he kept that up as long as he did but he eventually caved in and began eating meat again. The Bible doesn't teach that it's a sin to eat meat but the school we attended did. That was one sin that people openly committed while those who were vegetarian looked down on those of us who partook of flesh.

Not having been raised in the church ordinance services were something strange to me the first time I encountered it. One of my friends invited me to attend church with her one Sabbath. It happened to be a Sabbath when they were celebrating the ordinances and I didn't have a clue what was going on. I didn't see any foot washing but I was aware there was bread and juice being passed out. My friend told me that since I wasn't baptized I couldn't partake of

the bread or juice. When the deacon came by and offered me something I held up my hand and shook my head. My friend snickered at me over it then later told me that the church allows everyone to eat and drink their bread and juice and she was having a cow watching me decline to partake.

When I was older and began attending church regularly I became aware of what the service was but it wasn't until I was in my mid 30's before I heard a pastor explain what the ceremony was all about. Elkanah was teaching in a one-teacher, multi-grade elementary school for the Adventist system. Every year they would have a week set aside for someone to come in and give a special sermon just for the kids. This week is called the Week of Prayer. One year the local pastor was giving that week long series and he ended it with a foot-washing ceremony. At the time there was only 1 girl in the school so I was asked to come and join them that day so the girl could have a female to work with.

The pastor explained how solemn the service was. It is supposed to be a time set apart for God. He had a text to back his counsel that to partake of the ordinance services without first spending some time in preparation by soul searching, prayer, and setting aside your sins, would lead to serious illness and even death.

Tonight I found the text he had used to teach this to the kids and I'll share it with you.

### **Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper**

**17** In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. **18** In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. **19** No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. **20** So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, **21** for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. **22** Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

**23** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is

for you; do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**27** So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. **31** But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. **32** Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

**33** So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. **34** Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

And when I come I will give further directions.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 NIV

The pastor who taught the students (and me) about the ordinance services was someone that I had many issues with regarding his theology of legalism. But with this one I received a blessing to learn what was going on.

But are the ordinances of humility a requirement for salvation? I don't think so. They are merely a tool to help you in loving others. If you find you have a grievance with someone then go ask to wash their feet. They will think you are nuts but if they allow it you may find that it will melt down the walls that are causing the dissension between the two of you.

Our salvation is based solely upon our relationship with Jesus. As we come to know Jesus we learn of a Love that has no limits. We also learn that the Father is just like Jesus and with this knowledge we know that we are able to trust Him implicitly.

How do we have a relationship with the Father? I found something that bothered

me and I hesitate to share this but it needs to be done. As Adventists we have been taught that Ellen White never made a mistake in her writings. I remember sitting in Sabbath School class and listening to the teacher repeatedly comment that she (Mrs. White) never made a mistake. He stated it with pride and amazement. As I listened to him it was difficult but I kept my mouth shut. Years earlier I had found something she wrote that was a discrepancy. Now that I've started paying attention to what I'm reading I'm finding more and more places where she contradicted the Bible.

How we come to the Father is one of those discrepancies. Let me show you this:

### **God's Covenant Our Refuge**

The covenant that God made with his people at Sinai is to be our refuge and defense. The Lord said to Moses:

“Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now, therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine, and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.”

“And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words.”

“And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.”

This covenant is of just as much force today as it was when the Lord made it with ancient Israel.

Mrs. E. G. White  
Elmshaven,” Sanitarium, Cal.,  
January 7, 1904.

(The above was taken from The Southern Watchman, March 1, 1904, paragraphs 40-44)

---

6 Jesus answered "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. – John 14:6

Who are you going to follow? Will you believe Mrs. White and place your trust in an old covenant or will you believe Jesus and place your trust in him? It's your choice. As for me and my house, we will follow Jesus.

Much love to all and apologies for the tardiness in getting this posted.

Hannah

Copyright 2018 by Hannah