

"HOLEY BREAD"

Not long ago I received a six page letter from a listener of our weekly radio broadcasts. I have read the letter several times and I am not sure if she agrees with me concerning the need to observe the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day or if she is taking me behind the shed. After reading it I am once again thankful that the writing of the Bible was not left to uninspired men but to men who were overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, I think the book would have been beyond our understanding. Be that as it may be, this listener advised me that concerning the Lord's Supper, "Your bread should have holes in it to be the symbol of the piercing of our Lord's body." Here is a case of a person who believes in the doctrine of having "holey bread" at the holy Supper.

Of course, there is nothing in the word of God that reveals the shape, the consistency, the dimensions or the number of holes that should be in it. The two things that the word does address concerning this supper – its content, unleavened bread and unleavened fruit of the vine, and its frequency, the first day of each week – is mostly ignored by the religious world as being unimportant and therefore these matters are or are not observed by the body of Christ subject to the fickle whim of men.

The Scriptures are silent as far as the "hole issue" is concerned but if I were a believer in "holey bread" I think I would be a "five holer" – two holes representing the piercing of Christ's two

hands, two holes representing the piercing of Christ's two feet, and one hole representing the piercing of Christ's side. (Then, we would have to decide in what arrangement these holes would appear on the loaf – in one vertical or in one horizontal straight line, or maybe four holes on the corners of an imaginary square and the fifth hole in the center of the four. The question of what "holey" arrangement should be on the loaf would give the church one more thing over which to divide.) Of course, I am sure that someone would point out that there were also piercings in Jesus' head from the crown of thorns. Knowing how "religion" works I'm sure that there would be "five holers," "six holers," "seven holers," etc. Just think of the many denominations that could be started, each based upon the distinctive theological views of different groups concerning the number of holes in the bread.

There is something that is of far greater concern to me than this "holey bread" issue. It's "holey preaching." Much of the preaching we hear today is full of holes. One gaping hole in much preaching is the absence of preaching the need to be immersed in water for the remission of sins. Preachers preach faith, repentance, and confession until the cows come home and then stop. There is a very large hole in their preaching this incomplete plan of salvation. That which would fill the hole would be some water. The mandate to be immersed for salvation is missing in

many of the messages that come from America's pulpits on the Lord's Day. This is a big hole in almost all denominational preaching and the hole has spread even to some pulpits in the church of Christ. People are politely "invited" to "accept Jesus as Savior" but are not told how they are to do it. After the preaching and the offering of an "invitation" people are left standing at their pews wondering what they are to do to come to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. The problem they have is the result of hearing a "holey invitation."

This "holey invitation" is not the only thing that has holes in it. I heard a preacher one time say that the problem with most preaching today is that "It isn't what preachers say; it's what they don't say." I like that. Jesus said in *Matthew 25:41 - 46* that it isn't what people do that sends them to hell; it's what people don't do that sends them to that place. In the case of preaching these days, there is a whole lot of time being spent not telling people what God has said concerning anything. In the case of the doctrine of "holey bread," though, this woman is overly concerned about something about which God never said anything. I have received several letters from this lady and it is clear that she has never been baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of her sins. This is clearly something that Christ has said to do. But this lady, like so many others, is more concerned about "holey bread" - something never addressed in the word of God. I think her problem is probably because she has listened to too many preachers who preach "holey" doctrine and who have holes in their heads.