

Family Communion Service Outline

Before the Service: Prepare the bread and juice to be used (simple grape juice and a simple cracker like a saltine is all that is needed).

Heb. 10:11-14 - Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

The book of Hebrews draws a series of comparisons and contrasts between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. In this section of the book one of the most important differences between the two systems is highlighted: the sacrifices of the Old Covenant compared to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The utter futility of animal sacrifices is emphasized – The careful wording of the text drives home the ineffective nature of the sacrifices which were offered under the Mosaic Law. Every word or phrase in the text cries out to the insufficiencies of animals burned up on the altar at the temple.

- “every priest” – By the first century, every priest included literally hundreds of priests that served in the temple. There were so many that they rotated into Jerusalem in two week shifts twice a year to accomplish all that needed to be done.
- “stands” – It is easy to overlook the significance of this word....They stood, they did not sit down. They stood because the work was never accomplished and there were more sacrifices that were yet to be offered. Always doing, never done.
- “ministering daily” – This unending string of sacrifices was offered up each and every day, with more sacrifices made on significant days of celebration and on the Sabbath Day.
- “offering time after time” – An endless chain of sacrifices day after day after day
- “the same sacrifices” – For literally hundreds of years, nothing had changed. The parade of sacrifices, the many priests, the abundance of feast days...Nothing changed. Nothing accomplished.

The inadequacies of the sacrificial system illustrate well the futility of human works for salvation. Lots of doing...but no results. Salvation is not to be found in mere religious obedience. No matter how often and how persistent, they do not yield the desired result

Now consider the cross. Jesus made “one sacrifice for sin for all time.” One sacrifice, because this sacrifice dispelled the wrath of God and paid the penalty for our sins. After making that sacrifice, Jesus sat down! His is a FINISHED WORK on our behalf. The work is accomplished and we receive the result by grace through faith.

Offer a prayer for the bread and the cup. Give thanks for a salvation that is complete because of Jesus.