 Why the Lord’s Supper Is Not For Forgiveness

The Lord's Supper is not immediate.

If we committed sin on Monday morning, surely that would be our "time of need" (Heb 4:16) and we should not wait a week to seek forgiveness. Prayer is immediate. We can "repent... and pray" at any time (Acts 8:22) --not only, and not even preferably, at the Lord's Table.

The Lord's Supper is not private.

Jesus tells us, "When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your heavenly Father in secret" (Mt 5:6). Common sense tells us that this is a more appropriate and opportune way of seeking forgiveness than at a public meeting.

The Lord's Supper is not a sacrifice.

The sacrifice for sins was the flesh and blood of Jesus (Heb 10:19,20). The bread and the fruit of the vine are emblems, not the actual body and blood. The emblems are not the sacrifice. The sacrifice was what the emblems represent. The Lord's Supper helps us to remember and proclaim the sacrifice that Christ made. That sacrifice, however, was made "once for all" and Christ does not need to "offer himself often" (Heb 9:11-14,26).

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

When we first come to Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, we enter into his death through baptism which is a symbol of his death, burial, and resurrection. "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death... buried with him by baptism into death... to walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:1-6).

The Lord's Supper is also a symbol of Christ's death, so it occurs to some minds that the Lord's Supper continues to do week by week what baptism did at the beginning —allow access to the grace of God and forgiveness of sins. (Please turn the page)