Scripture: Matthew 6:1-8; 16-18; 7:21-23; 15:1-9

Singing: 350:1-5 – 70:1-5 – 138:1-4 – 438:3-4

Thoughts on the Lord’s Supper partakers

* It is time of communion with the Head of the Church
* It is table at which He is not only the Chief Guest but the Host

 *He took the bread – the cup and gave it unto them*

 (Luke 22:19-20; 27; Luke 12:37)

* It is a table at which each guest is *unworthy*

● none is without sin, but all are struck with sin-awareness

● none have perfect faith

 ● none are without earnest resolves to life holy

* It is a table that needs to be guarded as much as possible

 ● But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup (1 Cor. 11:28)

**The Guarding of the Lord’s Table (1)**

**I. Who are the unwelcome guest II. Why are they unwelcome**

**III. How they are to be excluded**

**I. Who are the unwelcome guests at this Holy Table?**

A. Three groups: *hypocrite – unrepentant – unbelieving/ungodly*

 1. **Hypocrite**: *Lit: those who wear a mask – two faced*

 a. such who pretend to be saved – who have an imaginary grace

 b. yet they speak *as if they have grace*

c. Jesus’ fiercest words *are directed against the hypocrisy*

 (Matt. 6:1-18; 7:1-5; 21-23; 9:13; 17:1-9; 23:1-33)

 d. be warned, hypocrites: *you may fool men but can’t fool God!*

 2. **Insincere**: *who do not convert themselves with a sincere heart*

a. some have *made great changes* but not with sincere hearts

 b. No one can judge heart but *God completely and yourself partially*

● if the outward appearance and speech is good, we have

 reason to suspect anyone (see Canons III/IV, art 15)

 3. **Unbelieving and ungodly***: all kinds of offensive sinners (see Form)*

a. holds false doctrines rejecting God’s truths

b. lives outward in ungodly manners even though church members

 c. this could even apply to *saved sinners* living in open sin

**II. Why are they to be excluded as unwelcome guest?**

A. Out of love for their own well-being

 1. such unsaved eat and drink judgment to themselves

 a. judgment doesn’t mean *damnation* (though it may lead there)

 2. the hypocrite and insincere eat judgment ***to themselves***

B. Out of concern for their family of God

 1. Nothing angers God more than the *desecration of His Name*

 2. How will God show His wrath?

C. Out of honor *for God*

 1. The greatest motive why to exclude unworthy guests!

Finally: The Lord’s Table will never be any holier here than the first one!

A. It appeared that Judas Iscariot was present at this *first Lord’s Supper*

B. Never cease to examine yourselves *diligently*

 1. Though not always called to condemn yourself, it sure is always

 safe to suspect yourself

 2. The man who shuns self-examination may be sure that things

 need examining