

THE LORD'S SUPPER, SIMPLY EXPLAINED

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The Lord's Supper, Simply Explained by Ashton Oxenden

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ASHTON OXENDEN

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BY THE

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1861.

TO THE
PARISHIONERS OF BAHAM,
AMONG WHOM THE AUTHOR WAS PERMITTED TO
MINISTER DURING SEVEN OF THE HAPPIEST
YEARS OF HIS LIFE,
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED,
WITH AN EARNEST PRAYER,
THAT GOD WILL NOT ALLOW IT
TO GO FORTH WITHOUT
HIS BLESSING.



PREFACE.

Among the many books which are now circulated on the subject of the Lord's Supper, the Author knows of few which have been written *exclusively for the poor*. He has had *them* especially in view in the present work; and accordingly he has endeavoured to make his language, and matter, as simple as possible. It is his earnest prayer, that this volume may *first* have the seal of God's approval, and *then* be made acceptable to many of His children.

This volume is accompanied by another, of the same character and size, on the subject of **Baptism.**

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THE LORD'S SUPPER.

CHAPTER I.

THE INTRODUCTION.

THE Lord's Supper is one of the Christian Sacraments. It is one of those Ordinances which Christ specially appointed for the good of His people. Now, what is meant by the word "Sacrament." A Sacrament means an *outward* sign of some *inward* blessing. Mere words and commands are very apt to be forgotten by us. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ, who well knew our weakness, appointed certain *outward* ceremonies, which *we can see*, to

bring before our minds, and to convey to our souls, certain *inward* and spiritual blessings which *we cannot see*.

The word "Sacrament" has also a further meaning. It was formerly used to signify the oath, by which Soldiers bound themselves to be faithful to their General. And so, when we partake of the Sacraments of the church, (that is, Baptism and the Lord's Supper,) we do in fact pledge ourselves to be true and faithful soldiers of Christ, who is the great "Captain of our salvation."

In this book your attention is directed to the Sacrament of *the Lord's Supper*, or, as it is sometimes called, *the Holy Communion*.

My Christian Reader, you and I have a very solemn subject before us.

And I entreat you not to read another page, without asking for God's blessing. May your prayer come, not from your lips only, but from your heart!

THE READER'S PRAYER.

O Almighty God, who well knowest all my blindness and ignorance, be pleased to prepare my mind for instruction, by giving me thy Holy Spirit. Grant that whatever is true in this Book may come home to my heart. I confess that I have not thought enough, in time past, about those holy sacraments which thou hast given us. Enable me henceforth to feel as I ought concerning them, and to look upon them with more seriousness and thankfulness. Hear me, O Lord; and guide me whilst I am reading, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.