

**THE LORD'S SUPPER: ITS
INSTITUTION, NATURE,
PREREQUISITES, AND LAWS
REGULATING ITS OBSERVANCE**

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The Lord's Supper: Its Institution, Nature, Prerequisites, and Laws Regulating Its Observance
by A. P. Williams

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A. P. WILLIAMS

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ITS

INSTITUTION, NATURE, PREREQUISITES, AND LAWS
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BY

A. P. WILLIAMS, D. D.,

WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR

BY

A. H. BURLINGHAM, D. D.



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DEDICATION.

To the Ministers' and Deacons' Conference of the General Association of United Baptists of the State of Missouri, and to all who are willing to keep the ordinances as they were delivered to the churches by the Saviour and His holy Apostles, is this little volume respectfully and affectionately dedicated by
THE AUTHOR.

“Now I praise you brethren that you remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you.”—

Paul.

“Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”—*Mary.*

“Why call ye me Lord, and do not the things which I say? If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them.”—*Jesus.*

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

The important service of preparing a brief biographical notice of the lamented author of this work, and of furnishing a few words commending it to the public, should have been committed to other hands. There are many brethren in our State who, by long and endearing acquaintance with Dr. Williams, are far better qualified to write these few memorial and introductory pages demanded by his untimely death and last considerable literary production, than is he who, by reason of the mistaken judgment of the publishers, has been chosen to perform the task.

When the writer was first asked to provide a few introductory sentences for this work, the author was in sound health and fully employed in his Master's service, as he had been for nearly forty

years. Little then was it thought that this was to be the last contribution of his busy and prolific pen to the cause of Christian truth, and to the work of denominational assertion and defense. Then it could not have been divined that, instead of the brotherly privilege of furnishing a few words of tribute to the excellence of the work itself, our painful duty would be to occupy this little space with a loving tribute to the memories and virtues of the deceased author. The barest outline of our brother's life and work is all that will be attempted, as there is a full memoir of him now in course of preparation. May that be worthy of the great and good man, and impress him upon the living for generations to come—an excellence and a power we cannot for a moment think of claiming for our small and unpretending effort.

By being thrown from his horse on the 9th of November, 1868, as he was starting for his home, from Glasgow, in this State, where he had been holding a protracted meeting, Dr. Williams was mortally injured, and, after about two hours of intense but patient suffering, he passed away. During this brief period of lingering, he could utter but few words, such was the pain he experienced,

but he was able to declare his trust in his Redeemer, and his readiness to depart to receive his crown and to enjoy his reward.

His death was in the fifty-sixth year of his age, he having been born in St. Louis county, Missouri, on the 13th of March, 1813.

Though his father was a minister of the Gospel, and doubtless felt the importance of giving his son opportunities for education, such facilities were not afforded him, as, in that early day, ministers were poorer and were more poorly paid than they even are at the present day. To eke out a scanty support, they were obliged to resort to manual labor—a necessity which, we are sorry to say, has not altogether passed away in our State. Besides, at that period, schools were few and of an inferior quality in this Western country then so new. Young Williams' boyhood was spent in laboring upon the farm, thereby assisting his father in providing for the family. This employment he felt himself obliged to follow, in some measure, for years after he was married and had entered the ministry. Not to complain of Providence, nor to parade his privations and sacrifices, but because a fact, and because God gave him the force to overcome diffi-