

**A SHORT AND PLAIN
INSTRUCTION FOR THE BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF THE LORD'S
SUPPER; WITH THE NECESSARY
PREPARATION REQUIRED**

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A short and plain instruction for the better understanding of the Lord's Supper; with the necessary preparation required by Father in God Thomas

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FATHER IN GOD THOMAS

**A SHORT AND PLAIN
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UNDERSTANDING OF THE LORD'S
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A
Short and Plain INSTRUCTION
FOR
The Better Understanding
OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER;

WITH THE
Necessary PREPARATION required;
For the BENEFIT of
YOUNG COMMUNICANTS,

AND
Of such as have not well considered
THIS HOLY ORDINANCE.

To which is annexed
THE OFFICE OF THE
HOLY COMMUNION.
With proper HELPS and DIRECTIONS
for joining in every Part thereof with
Understanding and Benefit.

By the late Right Reverend Father in GOD,
THOMAS, LORD Bishop of *Sodor and Man.*

THE THIRTY-SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED.

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1807.

TO OUR UNKNOWN*

BENEFACTRESS.

MADAM,

SINCE we are not permitted to know

You, but only by your good Works, you cannot be offended by this public Acknowledgment of the great Good You have done, and of the good Example You have given in an Age abandoned to all the profane and idle Ways of squandering Estates and Riches without the least Dread of an Account to be given for such Talents received and abused.

* A certain unknown PERSON, who within these few Years had laid out very considerable Sums of Money in purchasing *Bibles*, and other Books of Devotion and Piety, for the Use of the People committed to the Care of the Author of these Papers.

Your commendable Zeal to restore and promote the Knowledge and Love of the *Bible*, at a Time when this sacred Book is attacked by Infidels, and too much neglected by Christians, will, one would hope, be imitated, at least by all such as consider, that the *Christian Religion* at first, and afterwards the *Reformation*, which we all pretend to value, were carried on, and established, by publishing and dispersing the *Scriptures* in the Language of every Nation.—And, indeed, it is to be suspected, that many of those, who now set themselves so industriously to revile the Revelations and Doctrines of the Gospel, are in the Service of that Church which denies Christians the free Use of the *Bible*.

If this excellent Kind of Charity has suffered in the Opinion of some, when they have not found the wished-for Effects of distributing good Books amongst the common People, it is much to be feared, that this has been too often occasioned by those
who

The Epistle Dedicatory. v

who have had the Part of distributing them; For it will be found—That the best of Books, *when lightly given, will be lightly valued, and as lightly made use of.*

This, I hope, *Madam*, has in some Measure been prevented by those who have been your Almoners; who have taken Care to give some suitable Advice and Instructions how to make Use of your Charity to the Purposes of a Christian Life.

I have often considered and found by Experience, that there is no Way so likely to influence the Lives of Christians;—To inspire young People with a Sense of Religion;—To keep them from Backsliding; and to secure, if possible, the growing Age from the sad Contagion of the present; as by leading them *very early* to an Ordinance, in which all the Means of Grace and Salvation are exhibited to their View, and in order to which they are always required to consider their Ways;—To renew
A 3 their

their Purposes of Obedience ;—And to beg those Graces which are necessary to fit them for Heaven and Happiness. I have, therefore, in the following Papers, endeavoured to make this holy Ordinance, and the Duties required, as plain as may be to the meanest Capacity.

And I hope I have taken Care, as on one Hand not to flatter Sinners, so on the other,—not to fill the Minds of young People with unnecessary Fears and Scruples, or with the Difficulties of a due Preparation, with respect to a Duty which ought to be the Practice of their whole Lives : As if nobody ought to go to this Sacrament, but such as are as perfect as ever they hope to be.

I have, therefore, in these short Devotions, consulted both the Capacities and Tempers of *Young Communicants, for whose Use this is chiefly intended*, who are apt to be impatient, and weary of longer Prayers.

And

And I would hope that the Specimen of Devotions, before and after the Communion, will not only answer that End, but will be of Use to lead Christians to make proper Reflections, when they read, or hear the Scriptures read, at other Times:—For want of which, these Holy Writings are too often read and heard without any great Benefit, and without affecting the Minds, or influencing the Lives of those that hear them daily.

Having observed with Concern, how often People distract themselves with turning to other Books of Devotions, when they should attend to the public Service of the Church; to prevent this, I have added the whole Communion-Service, with such short *Observations, Prayers, Ejaculations, &c.* as may be proper to help devout Minds, without diverting them from the Duty they are about.

And the *Observations* upon the *Rubricks*, upon the *Commandments*, and *Warnings, &c.*
which

which should be consulted at Home, will be of Use to shew those of our Communion, how well the Church has provided for the *Instruction, Edification, and Salvation*, of all her Members..

In short, there is nothing wanting to make this *Holy Ordinance* to be revered, and closed with, by all Persons, and upon all Occasions, but a true Understanding of its Meaning, and the Blessings annexed to it: Where this End is in any good Measure attained, either by this, or any other Books on this Subject, God will be greatly glorified; which is the great End intended by the following Papers, and prayed for by,

MADAM,

Your Affectionate Friend, and

Servant in Jesus Christ,

THE AUTHOR.