

September

18

TILL HE COME

Monday

Bible Reading: I Corinthians 11:23-29

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. I Corinthians 11:26

A communion service looks in two directions. It looks back and it looks ahead.

It looks back to the death of Christ, upon which all the blessings of Christianity depend. Through this great act, Jesus Christ destroyed the power of the evil one in principle, and established our salvation.

The communion also looks ahead. As Paul has said in this verse, we "shew the Lord's death till he come." At the ascension the apostles were promised that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." All through the first three centuries of the Christian church its members were noted for their constant expectation that their Lord would soon come back.

When Constantine became a Christian, some thought the Golden Age was about to begin, and that through Christianity perfection would be established upon this earth. Sixteen centuries have passed since that time and wickedness is still widespread. Unbelieving dictatorial governments are crushing Christianity under the iron heel, destroying all freedom in an area including nearly half the population of the world.

Actually God never promised that a perfect civilization would be established through the preaching of the Gospel. He has ordered us to witness to His truth and to show forth righteousness in the world, while we wait for the return of His son from heaven. The last prayer of the Bible is, "Even so come, Lord Jesus."

—Prof. Allan A. MacRae, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania