

## Discussion Guide: "Is it nothing to you?"

*Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with the great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."*

*Acts 17:11 (NIV)*

**October 19, 2003;** "Is it nothing to you?" –sermon by Dr. Paul Dixon – Chancellor of Cedarville University. Reading from Lamentations 1:12, Pastor Dixon challenged us to examine ourselves and ask...

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by...the church today at College Park? Look around and see. Is any suffering like the suffering that was inflicted upon Jesus, at the direction of his Father, on the day of his fierce anger when he suffered and died on the cross for our sins.

The sorrow of Jesus was the greatest of ALL. Why?

1. Because of who he was...the King of Kings...the Alpha and Omega...the creator. Jesus created the tree, the nail, the hand that drove the nail. His creation was now trying to destroy him...the creator. Crucify him, they said. Get him out of here.
2. Because of his friends. All but three women and one disciple abandoned him in his hour of need. Oh what joy it is when friends rally around you and give you notes of encouragement, come along side you, etc. but at the cross ALL were silent except for his mother, his mother's sister, Mary Magdalene and the John the disciple whom he loved.
3. Because of the bodily pain he endured. Pastor graphically described the scenes leading up to the his death with the painful forcing of the crown of thorns upon his head, the flogging of his back, the pulling out of his beard, his bones being pulled out of joint as his hands were nailed to the cross and his cross dropped with a thud into the whole. (Isaiah 1:6; 52:14; 53:1-12)
4. But the greatest sorrow was the sorrow of sin...OUR SIN. The sin that continues today with the unfaithful husbands, children that are abused, etc. etc. etc. During the 3 dark hours in which the sun was blotted out, Jesus who had no sin, became our sin, and for us, who had no righteousness, paid the penalty for our sin and made us righteous before his Father through faith in him. Why did his Father do it? So that we would not have to experience damnation and hell for our sin.

After reviewing the above, discuss the following and consider closing with communion and prayer.

1. What is it to you that Jesus went through ALL this for you?
2. Jesus gave it ALL. What should be our response?
3. If you do not yet know Christ as your Savior, we invite you to do so this evening. If you have received Christ, identify specific areas of your life in which you would like to begin living your life more fully for Jesus? Share and pray for one another as the Lord leads (either now or after communion).

## Flock Group Communion

As the body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer,” let us do likewise this evening as we remember what Jesus did for us while we take communion together.

### Communion Preparation

Before we take communion, let us examine the scriptures and ourselves before the Lord. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-28 Paul says,

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.”

Let us examine our own hearts before the Lord and confess any sin that might make us unworthy of taking communion this evening. As you pray, remember that...

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9-10

Let us pray. (Then pass out the communion elements)

### Communion Scriptures (from Matthew 26:26-30 and Luke 22:13-20)

After the Passover was prepared and the hour had come, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them,

“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take and eat; this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying,

“Drink from it, all of you. “This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [Do this also in remembrance of me.]

And after they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives to pray.

**A Communion Hymn**  
(Sing to the tune of "Alleluia.")

Alleluia,  
We remember, what you did for us,  
Thank you Jesus, for forgiving us,  
Help us love Lord, as you love us.