

R.S.V.P.

A very familiar phrase these days -- R.S.V.P. -- but how many of us know exactly what these letters stand for?

It is taken from the French -- "Repondez S'il Vous Plait" -- which means in simple USA English -- "Please Reply."

This expression is found on just about every invitation received so the host of the event can know just how many to plan for. It is necessary for the room size, the seating, and quantity of meals or refreshments to have on hand.

These letters -- R.S.V.P. are not found in the Bible in exactly that way -- BUT -- God has given a personal invitation to each one of us to come to Him in this life -- in preparation for Eternity -- and He expects a response.

One of God's invitations in the Old Testament is -- *"Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live -- and I will make an everlasting covenant with you"* (Isaiah 55:3).

In the New Testament we find, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28) -- and -- *"Then the King said . . . Come you Blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the earth"* (Matthew 25:34).

So we find this personal invitation from God the Father, and Jesus Christ the Son, to come to the Heavenly Banquet set for all who will respond.

Now comes OUR part in this invitation. Are we prepared to come to the table of the Lord and enjoy the fullness of His Hospitality, His Provision, His Love and Care?

We are told in Psalm 23:5, *"You prepare a table before me . . . You anoint my head with oil -- My cup runs over"* -- what a beautiful picture of Abundant Love poured out, Love without end, Love without limit, Love from the very Heart of God the Father!

Reader, can you understand what great Love God has for you? Can you see the provision He offers? Can you see the overflowing Love He offers? Can you see the very heart of God in all He offers?

With an invitation we receive here, from our earthly family and friends, there must be a response -- an R.S.V.P. -- a reservation accepted.

How do we go about responding to God's invitation? Simply by accepting His offer of Salvation, of sins Forgiven, and the promise, *"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow -- though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"* (Isaiah 1:18).

Come to Him in the very Love He offers -- *"For God so loved us that He gave His Son"* (John 3:16). Ask Him for forgiveness of past sins (1 John 1:9). Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as a garment (Romans 13:14). Say "yes" to His invitation for Salvation (Acts 16:31).

The Banqueting Table of the Lord is set in Heaven and God is waiting for your R.S.V.P.

Don't put it off -- Respond now! Today is the Day of Salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2) -- tomorrow may be too late!

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