

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-755-8137 (Building)
915-525-5794 (Preacher's Office)

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM
Thursday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

The Frequency of the Lord's Supper Being Served

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

Paul wrote to a divided church of Christ in Corinth dealing with many issues there. One problem in Corinth was that the church had caused the Lord's Supper to be turned into a common meal wherein they even divided further into preferring one over the other in eating (I Corinthians 11:18-22). In Paul's inspired attempt to correct this particular problem in Corinth, we have instructions that help us understand how to partake of the Lord's Supper. Paul wrote: *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. **For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.** Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup"* (I Corinthians 11:23-28).

In the midst of Paul's writing we have a phrase that has caused some to begin new practices with the Lord's Supper (verse 26 which is in bold in the above quote). Some have thought that this phrase allows us to partake of the Lord's Supper "as often as ye come together" (you'll note that I Corinthians 11:26 does not really mention the words "come together"). This has started a "Monday Night for the Master" partaking of the Lord's Supper at liberal congregations like one in the Dallas area. They have concluded that the first day of the week is just as good to partake as any other day of the week. Some argue that while Acts 20:7 limits us to the first day of the week, they think I Corinthians 11:26 authorizes many times upon that first day of the week. Where's the truth on these questions?

Stating What We Know is Right (I Corinthians 4:6)

In regards to the Lord's Supper we know many things. We know we are to use unleavened bread (Matthew 26:17; 26). We know we are to partake of the fruit of the vine which represents the blood of Christ (Matthew 26:27-28). We know that we can partake of the fruit of the vine by using multiple containers (Luke 22:17ff.). We know that the local church of Christ in Troas did the following: "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight*" (Acts 20:7). The church in Troas assembled together to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. We see nothing in the text surrounding this event to even conclude that they came back a second time for a "make-up" serving of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7-12). This one example is all that we have telling us anything about a frequency of partaking of the Lord's Supper. If we follow this example, as we do here at Sunrise, a congregation would assemble on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper together.

When we take a step further into the text Paul wrote to Corinth, we find nothing different. For example, we find that the Lord's Supper is to be taken in an assembly together based on what Paul wrote to Corinth. In fact, Paul instructed the brethren in Corinth to wait on each other before partaking (I Corinthians 11:33). This sure gets away from the idea that some have of, "well they can just take it later at services tonight if they don't make it". Brethren, we ought to be communicating enough to know what may hinder another from being able to remember the Lord's death with the brethren by communing one with another in partaking of the Lord's Supper. If someone can't be there right now, we should tarry for them. This is commanded. Of course, that demands that we be not selfish with our scheduling. What do we think Paul teaches us about our attitudes towards one another when he writes Rome saying: "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another*" (Romans 12:10). These are the things we know.

Going Beyond What We Know

The congregation here at Sunrise has been criticized locally and elsewhere for assembling once on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper rather than twice. Men such as David Bonner, Don Martin, and boys like Joe Wright believe we are taking an opportunity away for people to partake. Well folks, these men are also criticizing churches such as the one that assembled in Troas. There is not one command, example, or implication that exists within the pages of inspiration telling us to assemble again on the first day of the week to offer again the Lord's Supper. So, if we have taken an opportunity away from people to partake of the Lord's Supper, it is an opportunity that men made without authority from the Lord in the first place. That is a good thing to take away (Mark 7:7-9). To be clear, we could assemble as often as desired for other purposes (Acts 2:42 and Acts 26-27; cf. Hebrews 3:13; 10:25), but not once do we see a second meeting on the first day of the week for the Lord's Supper in the Scriptures. Folks, going beyond what we know is not wise (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32, Proverbs 30:5-6, and Revelation 22:18-19).

Conclusion

It is good to review things and recall some familiar texts (II Peter 3:1-2). I often wondered why all of the fuss over following the pattern we do here to partake of the Lord's Supper. The battles often turn to the way you word something. Some don't like the idea of a second serving. Others don't like a second partaking. Some don't like both. Folks, we know for sure what the Lord approved of (Acts 20:7ff.). I can show someone what we do and know it is right. In Troas, the single assembly they had on the first day of the week was the time that they ate the bread and drank of the cup to show the Lord's death. Thus, I Corinthians 11:26 was fulfilled in Troas once on the first day of the week. Since we have nothing more to conclude a frequency from, we stick to what we know! To start the "well it doesn't say..." garbage is to deny II Timothy 3:16-17!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6). One must then remain faithful (Rev. 2:10).