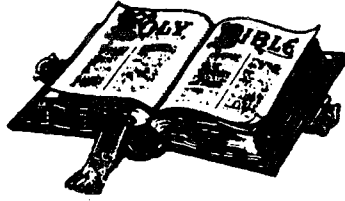


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 32

APRIL, 1995

Number 4

WHY DO CHRISTIANS OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER EVERY FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK?

Sometimes this question is asked: **"Why do Christians eat the Lord's Supper every first day of the week?"** In considering this question, please meditate on the following facts and observations.

1. The apostle Paul tells us **"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 show the Lord's death till He come."** (1 Cor. 11:23-26). NOTE: Jesus commanded His disciples to **"eat"** and **"drink."** In so doing, they would **"show the Lord's death till He come."** This passage says **"as often..."** but it does **not** tell us how often! Neither does this passage tell us on **what day** we should

observe the Lord's Supper. However, this passage does **not** give us **all** the information that God has revealed on the subject.

2. Luke records the fact that **"...Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them,..."** (Acts 20:7), NOTE: This passage tells us on **what day** the early Christians broke bread. It was on **"the first day of the week"**! By an **approved apostolic example** we learn on **what day** the Supper should be eaten. That settles it! Sunday is the first day of the week! Saturday is the seventh day!

We also learn by **necessary implication** that it was a **weekly observance!** Compare the statement: **"The rent is due on the first day of the month"**. This would **necessarily imply** that the rent is due on the first day of **every** month, wouldn't it?

3. We eat the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day (the first day of the week) because we are **authorized** by the Scriptures to do so!

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS #581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ., meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, in Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the **editor**, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial ...

IF WE LOVE GOD, WE WILL KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

In addressing His disciples, Jesus said: "If ye love me, keep my commandments: and "If a man love me he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:...: (John 14:15, 23-24). The apostle John declared: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:3). Without question, God's Word teaches that WE WILL KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS (and thus of God) IF WE TRULY LOVE HIM! Here are some things that we will do if we truly love God!

1. **WORSHIP AND SERVE GOD!** In Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to the devil: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Also see Matthew 6:24; John 4:24 & Hebrews 10:25.

2. **PRESENT OUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES!** The apostle Paul exhorted Christians saying, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a

living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1). Please keep in mind that Jesus said: "**If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**" (Luke 9:23). If a person truly loves God, he will **deny** himself and take up his cross **daily**, and follow Jesus! This will sometimes require **sacrifice**.

3. **KEEP OURSELVES PURE!** Paul admonished Timothy, saying, "**...Keep thyself pure.**" (1 Tim. 5:22) We cannot keep ourselves pure unless we are willing to learn and do the will of God. We must keep our hearts with **diligence** if we are to keep ourselves pure. A long time ago Solomon admonished his son, saying, "**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**" (Proverbs 4:23). NOTE: Don't think that you can keep yourself pure without keeping your heart with all diligence! We should **think** on things that are **true, honest, just, pure, lovely** and of good report. (See Philippians 4:8).

4. **PROVIDE THINGS HONEST IN THE SIGHT OF GOD AND ALL MEN!** A reading of the following passages should impress us with this fact.

Romans 12:17- "**...Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**"

2 Corinthians 8:17- "**Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**"

Hebrews 13:18- (The inspired writer said) "**Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.**" NOTE: We should not only **BE honest**, but we should do things in such a way so as to let others see and know that we are honest. Yes, we should be concerned about how others view us. We should endeavor to provide for honest things in the sight of men as well as in the sight of the Lord. If we tru-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

IF WE LOVE GOD, WE WILL KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

ly love God we will!

5. **LOVE THE BRETHREN!** Jesus said: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." (John 13:34-35). In John 15:17 Jesus said: "These things I command you, that ye love one another." In 1 John 5:2 the apostle John said: By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." To further see the essentiality of loving the brethren, please read the following passages.

1 Thessalonians 4:9- "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

Hebrews 13:1- Let brotherly love continue."

1 Peter 2:17- "Love the brotherhood..."

1 John 3:11- For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

1 John 4:11- "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

1 John 3:14- "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

1 John 4:20-21 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother

also." NOTE: If we do **not** keep the commandments of God, then we do **not** know that we love the children of God. If we truly love God we will keep His commandments!

6. **OBEY CIVIL POWERS!** Paul admonished saints, saying, "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." (Romans 13:1). A study of verses 2-7 will indicate that Christians should **not** resist the powers that be because they are ordained of God for good and those who resist shall receive to themselves damnation. In addition to being in subjection, we should honor the rulers, pay our taxes and pray for the rulers! Paul exhorted Titus to put others "...in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates,..." (Titus 3:1). For further study you might want to consider 1 Peter 2:13-15. NOTE: If we truly love God, we will obey His command to **obey civil powers!**

7. **LOVE NOT THE WORLD!** 1 John 2:15 says: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (Also see verses 16-17). Anything that is "worldly" in the sense of being sinful or anything that is "worldly" in the the sense of being a hindrance to our spiritual well being or the spiritual welfare of others must **not** be loved! (Also see Rom. 12:2; James 1:27 & 4:4.)

8. **BE KIND!** Paul exhorted: "And be ye kind one to another,..." The saints at Colossee were told to "Put on...kindness,..." (Col. 3:12) Cf. 2 Pet. 1:7.

9. **TREAT OTHERS LIKE WE WOULD HAVE THEM TREAT US!** Jesus said: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also unto them likewise." (Luke 6:31). Also see Mt. 7:12.

(Continued on page 4)

“RAISE THE DEAD” CAMPAIGNS?

Were the apostles ever told to **raise the dead**? YES! Speaking to the apostles Jesus said: **“Heal the sick, cleanse the leper, RAISE THE DEAD, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”** (Mt. 10:8). **OBSERVATION:** So-called **“faith healers”** do not have **“Raise the dead”** campaigns, but they do have **“Heal the sick”** campaigns! **WHY THE DIFFERENCE?**

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

WALNUT GROVE, AL (Hwy 278) May 4-7, 1995 at 7:30 (except Sunday)

BEATTYVILLE, KY June 25-30, 1995

NOTE: Carrol Sutton will be preaching in the above meetings!

(Continued from page 3)

IF WE LOVE GOD, WE WILL LOVE GOD, WE WILL KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

10. **FULLFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS!** If we truly love God, we will learn and fulfill our responsibilities to the following.

A. **Our companions!** Please read and consider Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Pet. 3:7 & 1 Cor. 7:3-5.

B. **Our parents!** See Eph. 6:1-4

C. **Our children!** See Eph. 6:1-4

D. **Our brethren!** See 1 Pet. 2:17; 3:8-9; 5:5 & Luke 17:3-5.

F. **Our enemies!** See Mt. 5:44-48.

Love is known by its **actions**. Our **love** for God will prompt us to **obey** Him! **Do you really love God?**

(CRS)

– SENTENCE SERMONS –

Many people have everything to live **with** and nothing to live **for**.

* * * * *

Some people are like porcupines: you can't get near them without getting hurt.

* * * * *

It is God who works in us both to **will** and **do** of **His** good pleasure!

* * * * *

There is more safety with Christ in the tempest than without Christ in the calm waters!

* * * * *

We go astray because we often forget that we are **forgiven!**

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 U.S. Highway 431
Albertville, Alabama 35950

Second-Class Postage