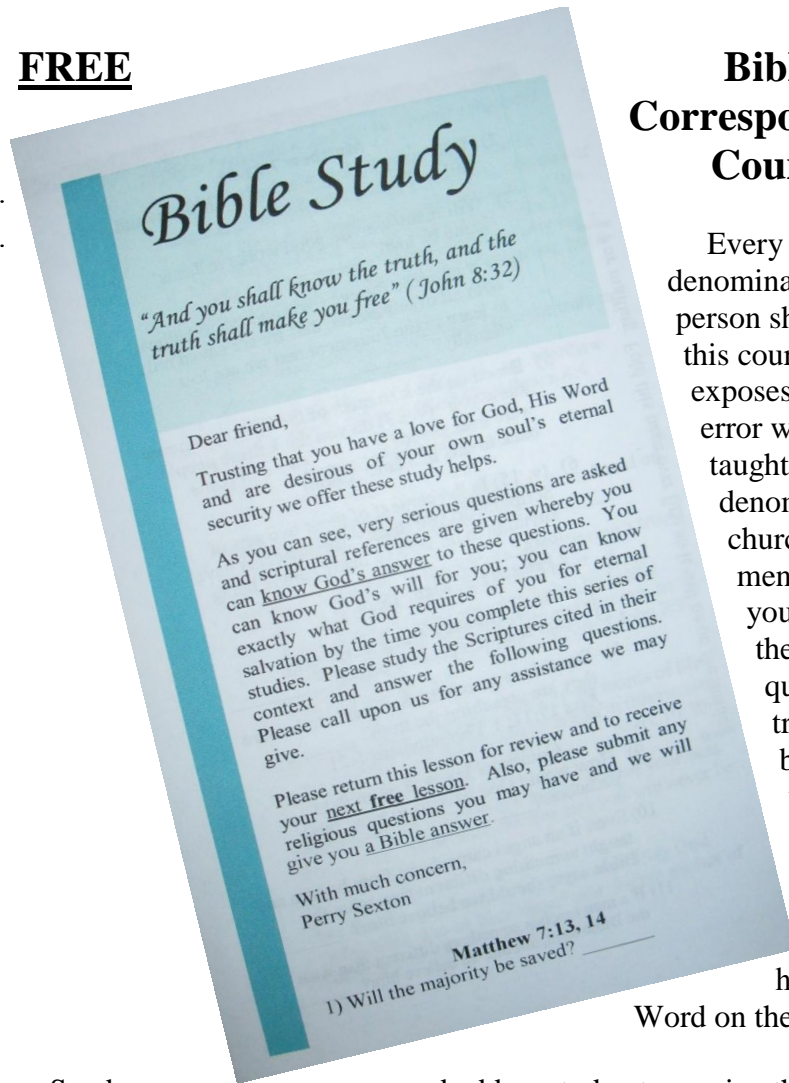


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The Lord's Supper

by Perry Sexton

The accounts of the Lord instituting His Supper are found in Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:15-20. The Lord's Supper is a memorial supper. Jesus said: "this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). The unleavened bread is symbolic of His body given for us and the "cup" (fruit of the vine) represents His sinless blood shed for us.

The elements of this memorial are: (1) Unleavened bread; and (2) the fruit of the vine which is often referred to as the cup. Jesus used the bread and the fruit of the vine of the Passover to set up His memorial (cp. Luke 22:15ff). Therefore we know that both were without leaven. The bread was unleavened and the juice was unfermented.

This is seen clearly in such places as **Genesis 12** where the Passover was established. Note **verse 8**: "unleavened bread;" **verse 11**: "it is the LORD'S Passover;" **verse 14**: "a memorial;" verse 15 "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel" (cp. v.19,20; 13:7). Please note that Jesus took only two elements from the Passover to use in His memorial.

The seriousness of partaking of the Lord's Supper is seen in Paul's writings in 1 Corinthians 11:23-30. If one does not meditate on

the Lord's death while partaking of the memorial supper he is condemned for it. It is not a common meal as the Corinthians were making of it (v. 17-22). It is a memorial of the Lord's **death** (v. 24-26).

The Lord's Supper is proof that the kingdom is here. Some say that the church and kingdom are not the same. Here is proof that the kingdom is here. Jesus said: "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matt. 26:29). We find the church partaking of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11, though they were not taking of it correctly. When Paul corrects them, he did not say they were not to partake of it, but showed them the proper way in which to observe the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26). In Acts 20:7 we also find the disciples partaking of the Lord's Supper. So the kingdom was in existence then and of course still is (Dan. 2:44; Col. 1:13). And the church certainly is here (Acts 2:47). The church and kingdom are one and the same institution as Jesus used the terms interchangeably (Matt. 16:18,19). If you would like more information on the kingdom and church being the same let me know.

When are Christians to partake of the Lord's Supper? We find the disciples came together upon the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7). This is an example for us to follow today. The first day of the week is Sunday. Saturday is the seventh day, the Sabbath.

How often are Christians to partake of the Lord's Supper? The disciples assembled upon the first day of the week (Sunday) to partake of the Lord's Supper (ibid.). Every week has a first day; therefore we are to partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday. We learn from the Israelites that they kept every Sabbath (Rom. 15:4; 1 Chron. 9:32). Most or all denominations (churches of men) partake of the Lord's Supper only once or twice a year, and then some do not partake on the right day. **This is not following God and His Bible!** This is not obeying God! We must worship God according to truth

(John 4:24). Truth is the Word of God (John 17:17). We have to learn from the Bible when and how to do things (Col. 3:17).

Please notice the similarities of these two verses: "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). And: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor. 16:1, 2). Note, both the Lord's Supper and the collection have the same wording: "upon the first day of the week."

Even though the denominations only partake of the Lord's Supper once or twice a year (some maybe every month), they **do** take up a collection every week and sometimes even more often. Why is this so? Does not the Bible say in both cases "upon the first day of the week?" Are they really following the Bible???

The Bible teaches that God's church (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16) is to worship Him upon the first day of the week (Sunday) and this includes partaking of the Lord's Supper and giving of our means. Both items are to be done upon the first day of the week: i.e., every Sunday.

All that we do in religion we must have authority for it from God (Col. 3:17; John 4:24). We have authority to partake of the Lord's Supper only upon the first day of the week and every first day of the week. We do not have authority to partake of the Lord's Supper on any other day except Sunday, nor do we have authority to partake of the Lord's Supper at any other time other than in worship to God.

Let us strive to serve God in truth, for only in truth can men be saved. May God bless you as you seek His truth (Acts 17:11; John 8:31,32; 1 Peter 1:22,23).

"The churches of Christ salute you" (Rom 16:16). ♥