

# WHY WE...

By: Keith Welch

Far too often folks in the religious world have very little, to no understanding, why they believe what they believe and or why they worship the way they do. Over and over again you hear, "This is what our family has always believed" or "This is what we have always done!" In other instances the person's belief and practices are patterned after what is popular! It's important that we understand and know why we believe what we believe and why we do what we do. Peter commanded, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"* (1 Pet. 3:15).

Authority for our religious beliefs and practices is established in at least one of three ways: 1) A direct command; 2) Approved Example; or by 3) Necessary Inference. The Apostle Paul penned, *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* (Col. 3:17). We must have approval or authority from the Lord for all that we believe and practice! Consider the following. Why we...

## **Observe The Lord's Supper On The First Day Of The Week**

Why do we partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week and every first day of the week? The Lord's supper is a memorial of the death of Jesus. A reading of 1 Corinthians 11:26 reveals, *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."* Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and commanded His disciples to observe it (Matt. 26:26-29). The bread is emblematic of His body and the fruit of the vine emblematic of His blood! We partake of this memorial because the Lord commanded us to do so and in so doing, we would remember His death. We partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week because we have an approved example of first century Christians meeting on the first day of the week to observe the Lord's Supper. A reading of Acts 20:7 reveals, *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."* This is why we do not partake of the Lord's Supper on any other day of the week! Why do we partake of the Lord's Supper on a weekly basis? By necessary inference we learn that the Lord's Supper is a weekly observance (Acts 20:7). Because every week has a first day, we partake of the Lord's Supper weekly! This is in contrast to many religions who observe some memorial of the Lord's death in a monthly manner or on some special "holy" day! It's comparable to when God commanded Israel to *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy..."* (Ex. 20:8). Israel understood that the Sabbath was a weekly memorial. Every week had a Sabbath and therefore they would observe the Sabbath every week!

## **Take Up The Collection On The First Day Of The Week**

If you assemble with us on the first day of the week at the Barberton Church of Christ, you'll note that we take up a collection in our assembly! Why do we do this? The Apostle Paul commanded the Church at Corinth, *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given*

*orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”* (1 Cor. 16:1-2). This is the only passage that speaks to how the local church is to raise its funds to carry out the work God has given the church to do! Members of the local church, not visitors to the assembly, are to give a freewill offering on the first day of the week! Paul penned, *“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (2 Cor. 9:7). The church does not conduct bazars, bake sales, and or the like to raise funds to support its work! Like the Lord’s Supper, we take up the collection on the first day of the week.

## **Why We Sing And Not Play**

A noticeable sound will emanate from the midst of our assemblies! Not a sound of mechanical instruments like guitars, pianos, and the like, but of our voices blending together offering up *“...the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”* (Heb. 13:15). There are two kinds of music: Vocal and mechanical. The scope of New Testament teaching regarding the kind of music in our worship of God is vocal music (Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Heb. 13:15; Jas. 5:13). To the church at Ephesus Paul penned, *“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”* (Eph. 5:19) and to the saints at Colosse, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* (Col. 3:17). Sometimes folks argue, “they played instruments in the Old Testament!” God commended such then (see 2 Chron. 29:25; Ps. 81:1-4), however, that law was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14). We are to abide in the teachings of Christ (2 Jn. 9; 1 Cor. 14:37). Jesus has commanded us to sing with our hearts!

There are many things that we could address in such an article as this, but for space we share with you these three observations that we be equipped to know why we believe what we believe and to know why we do what we do and that those who we cross paths with or visit our assemblies will know too! There are many aspects of worship to study and know! There are matters of salvation we must be ready to explain and explain from God’s word!