

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1
**“The Lord’s Supper May Be Observed Any Day Of The Week, Monthly,
Quarterly, Semi-Annually, Or Annually!”**
Lesson 20

INTRO:

- A. The matter of how often to partake of the Lord’s Supper varies among different churches as the above statement indicates.
1. Different churches practice different times to partake.

B. QUOTES:

“As Methodist clergy in the late 1700s, when the denomination first got started, a pastor who could administer communion and baptism, was on a circuit traveling around. They might be going to 12 different places. They may be going to 20 or 30 different churches on their circuit, which means they couldn't be in church every Sunday. So what happened was, the pastor always gave communion when he got to a church. And he might get to that church once a month, maybe once every 2 months. We were used to that and then as our pastors went on shorter and shorter circuits to ultimately just serving just one or two or maybe three churches, that habit has just stayed with us. So our communion happens maybe once a month in some churches. In some places it's maybe 3 or 4 times a year. And it's just part of our history.”

(www.umc.org)

“The Hiscox guide for Baptist churches, entitled “**The Standard Manual for the Baptist Churches**,” states only that churches have an option as to when and how often they will serve Communion and that the practice has become to serve on the first Sunday of the month. Some rely on Bible passages in Acts and 1 Corinthians stating that Christians in the early churches met each Lord's Day to break bread to support their position that Communion should be observed every Sunday.”

“A mail survey conducted in 2012 by Lifeway Research indicates that 57 percent of Southern Baptist churches serve communion on a quarterly basis. The survey was sent to Southern Baptist church pastors; a total of 1,066 surveys were completed. The same survey indicated that 15 percent of those churches serve communion five to 10 times per year and eight percent serve it less than four times annually. A mere one percent of Southern Baptist churches serve communion each week, according to the survey.”

(https://classroom.synonym.com)

“The New Testament does not give a conclusive answer to how often the Lord’s Supper should be held for the Church is at liberty on such an issue.” (www.christianity.com)

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I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING HOW OFTEN THE LORD’S SUPPER IS TO BE OBSERVED?

- A. Jesus Instituted The Lord’s Supper As A Memorial Of His Death
1 Corinthians 11:23-25
1. Notice verse 26 - “For **as often as** you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”
 2. “AS OFTEN AS” indicates **REGULARITY** which brings with it the question: HOW OFTEN?
- B. Man’s Practice from the above quotes:
1. once a month
 2. once a quarter
 3. once a year
- C. The Scriptures Teach The Lord’s Supper Was Observed On The First Day Of The Week.
Acts 20:7 “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.”
1. How do we know “to break bread” has reference to the Lord’s Supper?
 2. It is used to refer to the Lord’s Supper in...
Matthew 26:26 (Also Mark 14:22 and Luke 22:19)
Acts 2:42
1 Corinthians 10:16
1 Corinthians 11:23-24
 3. The phrase is also used to refer to a common meal as in **Acts 2:46** “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and **breaking bread** from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,”
 4. Two things we must pay particular attention to:
 - a. The context of Acts 20:7 is a worship assembly.
 - 1) Paul and those with him had waited seven days (**v. 6** “But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.”)
 - a) They would not have waited seven days if this is merely speaking of a common meal!
 - 2) The church at Troas “came together” which is necessary for the partaking of the Lord’s Supper (**1 Corinthians 11:17-34**)
 - 3) Paul preached to them. (KJV)

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- b. Common meals were forbidden to be done as a part of the church’s work. **1 Corinthians 11:22,34** *“What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.”*
- D. The Lord’s Supper Is To Be Observed **EVERY** First Day Of The Week!
 - 1. First day of the week means **EVERY FIRST DAY:**
 - a. **1 Corinthians 16:2** *“On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.”* (NASV; ESV; NIV; RSV)
 - b. Consider these statements:
 - 1) “Club meets on Monday.”
 - 2) “You will be paid on Friday.”
 - 3) “Saturday is double time.”
 - c. If something is to take place...
 - 1) weekly, the day of the week is stated.
 - 2) annually, the day of the year is stated.
 - 3) monthly, the day of the month is stated.
-) E. Parallel With The Sabbath In The Old Testament.
 - 1. **Exodus 20:8** *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”*
 - a. “Sabbath” was on the seventh day. **Exodus 20:10** *“but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God....”*
 - 2. Therefore **EVERY TIME** there was a “seventh day”, the Israelites understood that was the day to be kept holy.
 - 3. And so we have **Acts 20:7** - *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...”*
 - a. The same reasoning and logic applies - **EVERY TIME** there is *“the first day of the week”*, we are to come *“together to break bread”*.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Though the majority of the Catholic and Protestant world partakes of the Lord’s Supper on any day of the week, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, let us follow the approved example of the apostles and the practice of the early church and partake of it **EVERY FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK!**