

"COMMUNION - HOW OFTEN?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Often one will state that it does not matter how often one partakes of the "Lord's Supper" or "Communion", as long as one is sincere. May we do a brief study on this subject.

As Jesus was eating the annual Passover Supper with His apostles, He instituted the "Lord's Supper" (Matthew 26:26-29). Following His crucifixion and resurrection Jesus taught His apostles that they were to observe all things which He commanded them as he taught them things about the kingdom (Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:3).

The apostles undoubtedly understood that the "Lord's Supper" was to be observed **every Sunday** and taught such to the infant church. This can be seen in the following scriptures: Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 11:17,18,20; 16:1,2. As one searches the Old Testament it can be soon recognized that Exodus 20:8 calls for observance of the Sabbath every week and the priest of the Levitical Priesthood were the only ones permitted to eat the shewbread. This was a shadow of the New Testament Church, whereby the priesthood is comprised of all believers and all are permitted to eat of the Lord's Communion. Thus, the day of worship was changed at Jesus' resurrection from the Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday (Lord's Day). The apostles set the precedent of Sunday worship and the partaking of the Communion weekly.

Thus, **Bible history and secular history** both verify that Communion was observed each Lord's Day by the early Christians. Some Christian leaders of the past shout this from the grave, such as:

a) Ignatius (2nd century bishop of Antioch) b) Justin Martyr (2nd century apologist) c) Irenaeus (2nd century bishop of Lyon) d) Cyprian (3rd century bishop of Carthage) e) R.A. Torrey (Moody Bible Institute President) f) J.M. Camp (Baptist) g) John Wesley (Methodist) h) Thomas Scott (Presbyterian) i) John Calvin (Reformed Church) j) Phillip Doddridge (Congregationalist) k) Charles Spurgeon (Baptist)

Sometimes a Christian will say that "Communion" is more meaningful to them if it is only partaken of on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. This statement is saying to God, "I do not care how often YOU have said to partake of Communion, I am going to have it MY WAY". Due to each of us having a free-will, we can do this. However, **let us remember** we will answer to the Creator for any willful disobedience.

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