

The Old Paths

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“The Truth About The Lord’s Supper”

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Did you know that back in 2011, one of the Super Bowl ads was “pulled” due to its offensive nature? The commercial that was not allowed to air opened with a “preacher” worrying about how the “flock” was dwindling and the bills were growing. So, he prayed and got “inspired” to provide Doritos and Pepsi Max for the Lord’s Supper. When folks learned of the change that had been made, the lines were extended out the door for people to “partake”, while the “preacher” rejoiced at his “inspired” decision and all of the money rolling in. From what I understand, there was a “Catholic” and “Protestant” version of this commercial made.

While I am happy that this commercial was pulled from the Super Bowl ads, the reason I know about its existence is because it made its way to the internet! Therefore, folks still saw it “world-wide.”

This is just one of a number of examples of how people are bound and determined to make light of and even ignore the Lord’s ways. In the context of the Lord’s Supper, we see men twisting Scriptures by either refusing to take the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week (Acts 2:42, 20:7; etc.); or they engage in the opposite extreme by offering the Lord’s Supper multiple times dur-

ing the week and on “special occasions”, like weddings. The television commercial referred to above is just another example of people making light of something that belongs to God. To borrow a phrase, we understand that men are not making fun of us, but they are making fun of God (I Sam. 8:7)! Yet, it is still a tragedy and a sin! In light of this event, let us search the Scriptures and learn what has been revealed from God concerning the Lord’s Supper. What is the truth? What place does the Lord’s Supper have in our lives today?

The Lord’s Supper Is A Memorial

Before Christ’s death upon the cross, He instituted a memorial by which His people are to remember Him. This memorial is described in Matthew 26:26-28. *“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, 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.”* (Parallel passages: Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; I Cor. 11:23-30)

Notice that this memorial is a divinely prescribed memorial because Christ instituted it. It did not originate in the mind of man! In

fact, it had never been taught nor talked about in all the Bible until this time! Too, this memorial is one that continues in the Lord’s kingdom. If, as some say, the Lord has not yet established His kingdom, then the Lord’s Supper ought not be observed by anyone today. Yet, we see the first century Christians observing the Lord’s Supper (Acts 2:47, 20:7). Obviously, they understood the Lord’s kingdom was in existence, and taught that this is so (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). His kingdom exists today, fulfilling prophecy that had been written down before Christ came to earth (Dan. 2:44)!

This memorial reminds us of the Lord’s sacrifice, and ought never be taken lightly, ridiculed, or belittled! Just as we are sober and reverent at the memorials of men (Pearl Harbor, Arlington, etc.), shouldn’t there be an even greater sense of reverence, soberness, etc., when observing this memorial of Christ’s death?

The Lord’s Supper Consists Of Specific Elements.

The TV ad we mentioned above depicted a man “inspired” to change the elements of the Lord’s Supper and substitute other things. In so doing, this man sinned. When we read from the inspired (II Pet. 1:20-21; Jn. 16:8-13; etc.) writings, specifically, the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul, we learn that the elements comprising the Lord’s Supper are unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (Matt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; I Cor. 11:23-30). Just as we could not observe the Lord’s Supper on any day other than the first day of the week (Acts 2:42, 20:7), so also we cannot substitute these elements for other things.

You see, when God has been specific on a matter, then we have no right to change or substitute anything. This was true when God specifically told Noah to build an ark of gopher wood (Gen. 6:14). No substitutions were allowed in the type of vessel made, or the type of wood used! It was true when God demanded specific sacrifices as described in the book of Leviticus. No substitutions in the sacrifices were accepted by God. It was true when Naaman was told the way to cure his leprosy was to go wash in the Jordan River seven times (II Kings 5:10). No substitutions to this plan were accepted by God (II Kings 5:12)! In like manner, when it comes to the Lord's Supper, since the Lord has been specific about the elements (Mk. 14:22-25), the day of observance (Acts 2:47, 20:7), the meaning behind it (I Cor. 11:24-25), etc., how can we accept any substitute? We can't!

Christ has been specific as to what He wants when it comes to observing His memorial, His supper, and we need to respect His will!

The Lord's Supper Is A Communion.

The apostle Paul wrote, *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"* (I Cor. 10:16). To speak of a communion is to speak of a partaking, a sharing, a partnership, or fellowship. Thus, when Christians are worshipping on the first day of the week and partaking of the Lord's Supper, we are sharing together with the Lord. This is one way that we are in fellowship with Him! What a wonderful and special blessing this is! Truly, we draw closer to God

when we worship Him in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24)! Therefore, how sad it is that folks have tried to cheapen this experience through changing the elements, or through changing the day of observance, and similar things. This is a sharing together that Christians do with Christ the world over, since we are together in the kingdom, now (see: Matt. 26:28)!

Conclusion

In light of this Scriptural evidence, let us respect the Lord's plan for our partaking of the Lord's Supper. Man may use TV, the internet, radio, etc., to make light of this act of worship, but we know the truth! Let us keep these things in our minds as we worship Him today.

"Why I Am A Member Of The church Of Christ"

A.C. Grider (1912-1990)

I didn't join the church of Christ. I didn't select the church of Christ as "my choice" from among many churches. It never occurred to me that I had a choice nor that I desired

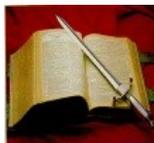
to make a choice of churches.

I started thinking about my spiritual condition down in Tennessee some years ago — several years ago and made up my mind that I should do something about it. I began to consider what the Lord wanted me to do. I started to study my Bible.

I found that I was a sinner and that Christ was THE savior. I found that if I were ever saved it would only be by Christ. I considered His word relative to what to do to be saved. He said I should repent, Luke 13:3, I did. He said I should confess Him, Matthew 10:32. I did. He said I should be baptized, Mark 16:16. I did. He said if I would do these things I would BE SAVED. I was. But the BIBLE taught that when I was saved the Lord added me to the church, Acts 2:47. He did.

Now, WHICH CHURCH did he add me to? HIS, Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16. Thus I am a member of the church of Christ because I had NO CHOICE and wanted none. I just wanted to be saved. And I was!

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- Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

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