

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Ms. Cindy Newsome, Mr. Gary Newsome, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

Out of Town: Mr. and Mrs. Dowling, the Long family.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Acts of Worship - Part 1

By Derek Long

God has always had instructions for how He wants people to worship Him. In Genesis 4 we are told about the sacrifices offered to God by two sons of Adam and Eve. Cain offered a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground and Abel offered a sacrifice of the firstborn of his flock and their fat. God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected Cain's sacrifice. Hebrews 11:4 tells us Abel offered his sacrifice by faith. To do something by faith means one must have acted based upon a commandment from God (Romans 10:17). Abel offered what God commanded while Cain did not. In the New Testament, God still expects His people to worship Him according to truth (John 4:23-24), which is revealed in His word (John 17:17).

One part of the worship God wants us to offer to Him today is the partaking of the Lord's Supper. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night of His betrayal. We can read about His institution of the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; and Luke 22:14-20. Jesus teaches this is something the disciples were to continue to do in His remembrance (Luke 22:19). Paul gave the Corinthians instructions concerning their partaking of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, he recounts Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper and uses that as the pattern Christians ought to follow in their observance of the Lord's Supper. Let's examine a few things we can learn about the Lord's Supper from the Bible.

The Lord's Supper consists of two emblems: bread and fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:26, 29; Mark 14:22, 25; Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23). The bread used at the institution of the

Lord's Supper must necessarily have been unleavened bread because the Lord's Supper was instituted during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Matthew 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7). In order to follow the pattern laid out by Jesus, we ought to use unleavened bread as well to remember His body. The cup contained what is consistently called, "fruit of the vine." The term "wine" is not used in reference to what is partaken of in observing the Lord's Supper. Additionally, the removal of all leaven from the houses would have necessitated them using unfermented juice of the grape. There are denominations which have substituted different elements in their attempt to observe the Lord's Supper. Such substitutions though are without Biblical authority and will render one's worship displeasing to God.

The elements of the Lord's Supper represent Jesus' body and blood (Matthew 26:26, 28; Mark 14:22, 24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:24-25). The doctrine of transubstantiation teaches the bread and fruit of the vine actually undergo a literal change and become the literal body and blood of Jesus. Such a teaching is not necessitated by the text. Jesus is using a common figure of speech, a metaphor, in speaking about the bread and fruit of the vine. Jesus refers to the fruit of the vine as His blood (Matthew 26:28) but then in the next verse still refers to it as the fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:29) making it obvious He did not believe it literally changed substance.

The Lord's Supper is sometimes referred to by the phrase "breaking of bread" since it involve bread being broken. One must study the context of the passage to know whether the phrase is referring to the Lord's Supper or to a common meal. In Acts 2:42, we read a description of the activities of the early Christians. One of the things they engaged in was the breaking of bread (Acts 2:42) which appears to be a reference to the Lord's Supper in that passage. In Acts 20:7 we are told about the behavior of the Christians at Troas. It says, "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" (NKJV). Here we have an example of Christians coming together to break bread. We are not reading about the observance of a common meal but the remembrance of Jesus' death in the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:22, 34). The day on which Christians assembled to partake of the Lord's

Supper was specified as "the first day of the week." Christians did not just meet on any day to partake of the Lord's Supper. Notice the following facts: 1. Paul and his company stay at Troas seven days (Acts 20:6). 2. Paul is hurrying to be at Jerusalem by Pentecost (Acts 20:16). The only explanation I can think for why they delayed and met on the first day of the week is because such is the only authorized day to partake of the Lord's Supper. We know the Lord's Supper is to be partaken of with a certain frequency (1 Corinthians 11:26). The frequency can be determined by looking at the phrase "first day of the week." If someone was to tell you a group met on "the first day of the week," you would understand them to mean they had weekly meetings on the first day of the week. In a similar manner, when we read about the early Christians breaking bread "on the first day of the week," we learn they observed the Lord's Supper weekly and we should too. Churches which observe the Lord's Supper on a different day or at a different frequency are not following the pattern we read in the New Testament. Such churches are worshipping God in a manner He is not pleased with.

The Lord's Supper is to be partaken of in a "worthy manner" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). The Bible does not teach the individual must be worthy but teaches the manner in which the individual partakes must be the right manner. 1 Corinthians 11:29 tells us the "unworthy manner" is equivalent to "not discerning the Lord's body" (NKJV). Partaking of the Lord's Supper while not having one's mind focused on Jesus' sacrifice is not the appropriate way to partake of it. The Lord's Supper ought to remind us of the covenant which Jesus instituted and which exists between us and God (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25). The Lord's Supper is a means by which we proclaim Jesus' death till He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26). It is important for each individual to "examine himself" and partake of the Lord's Supper in the appropriate manner (1 Corinthians 11:28).