

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER ON THE LORD'S DAY**

**Acts 20:1-7**

### **Introduction:**

- 1. A large congregation in Texas has added a Saturday service which includes instrumental music and the Lord's Supper.**
- 2. A veteran Gospel preacher told of attending a weekday wedding of members of the church that included the Lord's supper.**
- 3. Our denominational neighbors have long treated the observance of the Lord's supper as a matter of convenience.**
  - a. Some have it quarterly; some monthly.**
  - b. Some have it on Sunday; others on "special" days such as Thursday before Easter.**
- 4. What does the Bible say?**

### **Discussion:**

- I. GOD SPECIFIED A PARTICULAR DAY OF WORSHIP FOR ISRAEL.**
  - A. The sabbath (7th day) was Israel's special day (Ex. 20:8-11).**
  - B. The sabbath was given on Mt. Sinai (Ne. 9:13,14).**
    - 1. It was a sign between God and Israel (Ex. 31:13).**
    - 2. It was part of the Law which was "nailed to the cross" (Co. 2:14; He. 7:12).**
  - C. The Lord lived while the sabbath law was in effect.**
    - 1. He observed it as He did all the Law (Lu. 4:16).**
    - 2. The apostles went to the synagogues on the sabbath to teach (Ac. 14; 17:1- 4).**
- II. GOD SPECIFIED A PARTICULAR DAY OF WORSHIP FOR THE CHURCH.**
  - A. Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week (Lu. 24:1ff).**
  - B. Christ met with His apostles on the first day of the week (Jn. 20:1, 19, 26).**
  - C. The church began on the first day of the week (Ac. 2).**
    - 1. Pentecost came fifty days after the Passover.**
    - 2. Seven sabbaths (Saturdays) were counted; the day following the seventh (Sunday) was Pentecost (Le. 23).**

- D. The church at Troas met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7)**
1. Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem, but delayed six days (Ac. 20:16; 6).
  2. “On the first day of the week...the disciples came together to break bread.”
    - a. “Breaking bread” is a synecdoche for eating a common meal (Ac. 2:46; 20:11).
    - b. It is also a synecdoche for the Lord’s supper.
  3. Paul, an inspired apostle, placed his stamp of approval on this Lord’s day meeting for the Lord’s supper.
- E. The contribution was to be taken upon the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1,2).**
1. They were to “lay by in store” (put apart in the common treasury) their offering.
  2. Why the first day of the week? Because they met on that day.
  3. “Upon” translates “kata” in the original; it means “every.”
- F. By the end of the first century, the first day of the week was known as “the Lord’s day.”**
1. John “was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” (Re. 1:10).
  2. “It was on that day that Christ arose from the dead.... The universal and uncontradicted Sunday observance in the second century can only be explained by the fact that it had its roots in apostolic practice (Philip Schaff: History of the Christian Church, Vol. 1; pp. 478,79).
  3. Chrysostom in the fourth century said: “It was called the Lord’s day because the Lord arose on that day” (Albert Barnes, Com. on Rev.).

**Conclusion:**

1. Some quibble, “It doesn’t say every first day of the week” but neither did the sabbath command, but it was understood to include every sabbath.
2. Some say the sabbath was given at creation but Neh. 9:13,14 makes it clear the sabbath began at Sinai (Ex. 20; De. 4).
3. Some say “The pope changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday” but the Bible is clear that the first day of the week was the day of Christian worship from the beginning.
4. The Lord’s supper must be eaten by the Lord’s people on the Lord’s day!
5. Are you among the Lord’s people (Acts 2:36-47)?