

WHY THE LORD'S SUPPER EVERY SUNDAY?

On the day of Pentecost the apostles preached Jesus to the Jews who wanted Him crucified. Jesus told His disciples, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" (John 14:25-26). Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told the apostles "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). After the Jews heard Peter's sermon "those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). These saved souls were "continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). The "breaking of bread" was the Lord's Supper. The key is 'they devoted themselves' which indicates they were steadfast and persistent in the regular and frequent practice of this meal.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with His disciples before His death upon the cross during the Jewish Passover. "He said to them, 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer'" (Luke 22:15). The Jewish Passover meal was the perfect time for Jesus to inaugurate the Lord's Supper. The Passover reminded the Jews of what God had done for them in the past, "It shall come about when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you? that you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes'" (Ex 12:26-27). It also reminded the people of who they had been when Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the Lord brought you out from this place" (Ex 13:3).

Even though Jesus made a clear connection between the Passover and the Lord's Supper, it should be taught that we, as New Testament Christians, cannot partake of the Passover. The Passover was strictly a Jewish celebration; foreigners were excluded (Ex 12:43-49). The Lord's Supper does not commemorate the deliverance for Israel, but rather the sacrifice of Christ. The Lord's Supper does not glorify the Old Testament, but rather it represents the new covenant in Christ. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper during the feast of the Passover because under the new covenant Jesus is now the Lamb of God and He is our Passover. He was sacrificed for us and His blood cleanses us by washing away our sins. In His physical existence His body was sinless in unleavened purity. The blood of the lamb of the Passover represented the Israelite's deliverance from Egypt; but the blood of Christ represents our deliverance from sin.

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He took bread and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. "But I say to you, I will not drink

of this fruit of the vine (not wine) from now until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Jesus, presence is with us when we commune in His kingdom the church (Matthew 16: 18-19). The Lord's Supper that we partake of each first day of the week is for the saints in His spiritual kingdom, the church. The saints are those who have been baptized INTO Christ – into His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27). We are to devote ourselves in partaking of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week according to scripture (Acts 20:7; I Cor 11:1-2, 23-26, 33).

The Lord's Supper should be a great assurance to all Christians who partake of it. Partaking of the Lord's Supper on a regular, weekly basis as the early Christians did, brings us closer in our relationship with Christ, also with our Christian brethren, as we come together in a common union.

As the Passover had no significance to non-Jews, so the Lord's Supper has no real significance to those who are outside of Christ. We who are IN Christ devote ourselves to the price that was paid by Christ for our forgiveness of sins.