

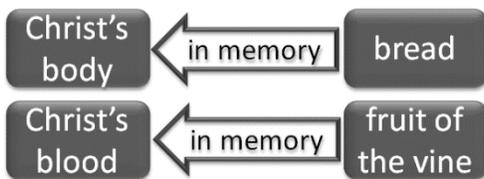
LESSON 5. ASSEMBLING WITH THE SAINTS: (Heb:10:25)

In an earlier lesson, we saw that the Lord’s church is the Lord’s assembly, and one of the chief things a local church does is “assemble.” Consider the importance & benefits of this.

1. How does Paul describe the world we live in (Gal. 1:4), and what do evil companions tend to do? (1 Cor. 15:33)
2. What are Christians to do for each other? (Heb. 10:24)
3. What are Christians to do collectively? (Heb. 10:25)
3. In addition to edifying one another, what do we bring to God? (Heb. 13:15; Eph. 5:19)

Communion & the first day of the week:

1. Besides other opportunities in the early church (Acts 2:46), we see a particular observance on the first day of the week (Ac.20:7; 1Cor.16:2). What was significant about the first day of the week (Lk.24:1ff)?
2. When Paul came to Troas, he preached to the church in Troas on the first day of the week. This was important, but the assembly did take place because Paul was in town. Rather, Paul had the opportunity to preach that day because they already going to be gathering for an important and regular observance. What was the purpose of their first day of the week gathering? (Acts 20:7)



3. Who instituted the Lord's Supper? (Mt. 26:16-28)
 What did he say the cup is?
 What did he say the bread is?
 What were his disciples to do when they took it?

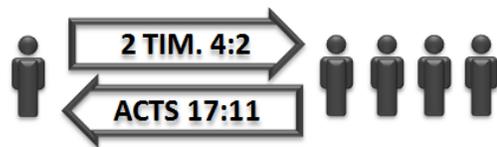
4. Abuse of the Lord’s Supper: the immature church at Corinth had to be rebuked for the way they were behaving with the

Lord's supper. Read 1 Cor. 11:17ff.

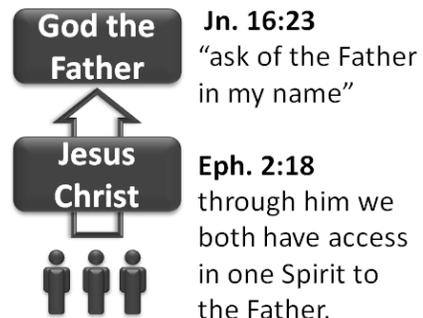
- a.) What were they doing that they shouldn't have been doing?
- b.) What should they have been doing instead?

Preaching the Word:

1. As a teacher, what was Timothy’s responsibility? (1 Tim. 4:2)
2. As listeners, what was the Bereans’ responsibility? (Acts 17:11)
3. For all (both teachers & taught) what is our responsibility? (James 1:21-22)



- Prayer: (Matt. 6:9-13) Most of our prayer should be in daily life (1Tim.4:4) or in private (Matt. 6:6). But we also pray when we assemble (Ac. 4:18-31; 1 Cor. 14:14-17).
1. Who did Jesus tell us to pray to (Matt. 6:9)?
 2. Who gives us that access (Jn.16:23; Eph.2:18)?
 3. When one leads the church in prayer, he needs to speak so as to be _____, lest others be unable to amen, ie.; give assent to (1Cor. 14:9-16).



Giving: 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9; Recall from lesson 4 that one of the works of the church is relief for needy saints. These texts deal with a collection for that purpose.

No percentage was legislated, but recall that under the Old Law, the Jews were to give a tithe (a tenth), in addition to other sacrifices and offerings Dt. 12:6, Malachi 3:8 . Turning to the NT, note the principles in these verses on giving:

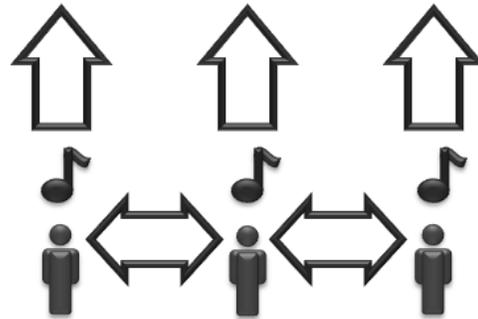
- 1.) 1 Cor. 16:2- on what day?
- 2.) 1 Cor. 16:2- In proportion to what?
- 3.) 2 Cor. 8:5- The Macedonians first gave what?
- 4.) 2 Cor. 7:7- What type of giver does the Lord appreciate?
- 5.) 2 Cor. 7:7- On how much a person gives, where is the decision to be made?

Singing: What did Jesus do with the disciples the night before he died? (Matt. 26:30)

Whether any others are around or not, how can we praise God? (James 5:13)

1. From Eph. 5:19 & Col. 3:16, what are Christians to do together?

2. What purposes are served in our singing together? (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)



Note the following differences between

Old & New Testament service:

Read 2 Chronicles 29:20- where Hezekiah restores temple worship. Note the nature of the worship in general, and of the music particular. Now Read again 5:19 and Col.3:15-16 and discuss.

OT / NT: CONTRASTS IN TYPES & FORM	O.T.	N.T.
the kingdom:	physical kingdom	spiritual kingdom
warfare:	physical warfare	spiritual warfare
the temple:	physical temple	spiritual temple
sacrifice:	animal sacrifice	self as a living sacrifice
circumcision:	in the flesh	circumcision in heart
singing praise:	w/ trumpet, cymbal, etc.	make melody in heart

30, the in Eph.

Note: “a cappella,” singing without

instruments, is from Italian “in the style of church or chapel music.”* Historically, instruments in worship (which had been part of Jewish worship) is not seen in the N.T. church. * *dictionary.com*

Priorities & Choices:

1. We are not to forsake / neglect our: (Heb. 10:25)
2. We are to put the kingdom of God in what place? (Matt. 6:33)

3. Many things compete for our attention and schedules. Some of those things are good, and some of them are important. But it's important to remember where our priorities lie.
Read Luke 10:38-42. Mary & Martha both chose something to focus on. Both things had value, but one was more important. What was it?

4. Consider the different choices people made in the following texts. In each case, what did the person choose to put first?
 - a.) The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22)
 - b.) Esau (Gen. 25:29-34 & Heb. 12:16)
 - c.) Solomon (1 Kings 11:4-7)

 - d.) The Widow (Luke 21:2-4)
 - e.) Peter (Acts 5:28-29; 41,42)
 - f.) Antipas (Rev. 2:13)

The choice we make about assembling with the saints, and taking advantage of classes and studies make a difference in our growth, our strength, and our opportunities to help others. When we put God and his Kingdom first, other things fall in place (Matt. 6:33).

side notes regarding our assemblies:

Spiritual Gifts Miraculous signs, healings, tongues, and prophecy were active gifts in the early church. A list of these gifts can be found in 1 Cor. 12.

1. Was everyone to speak in tongues? Or did different people have different gifts?
(see list of gifts: 1 Cor. 12:4-11; body analogy: vss. 14-18; conclusion: vss.28-30)

2. 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13; Paul reminds them of what they needed more than tongues and other gifts. What was that?

3. From 13:8; what would never end?
From 13:3; what would continue?
From 13:8; what would cease and be done away with?

4. From 13:9; tongues end when “he who” OR “that which” is perfect is come?
Note: “perfect” is in contrast to the “part.” In fact, one of the meanings of the Greek word (teleios) is “finished.” It is closely related to “telos” which occurs in John 19:30; “It is finished.” When revelation was partial, the prophets spoke “in part” (13:9). The partial would be replaced by the full, and the partial would cease (13:10).

5. Who had the ability to pass on these gifts, and how did they do it? (Ac. 8:17; 2 Tim. 1:6)

6. When the apostles spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4-12), was it unintelligible ecstasy, or was it actual foreign languages (Acts 2:4-11)?

7. For whom were tongues a sign? (1 Cor. 14:22) Explain how Acts 2 is an example of that.
8. What purpose is served by speaking in a foreign tongue to people who don't understand the foreign tongue? (1 Cor. 14:8-19; 23)
9. What prohibitions did Paul place on tongue speaking in the church? (1 Cor. 14:26-28)

10. Read 1 Cor. 14. The Corinthians were focused on a desire for tongues. Look at Paul's response. What does he emphasize? How they feel, or whether or not people are learning and being edified?

Gender Roles: While addressing conduct in the assembly of the church (1 Cor. 14:23; 26-28; 29-33a; and 33a-36), and who should and should not have the floor, Paul also gives instructions on gender roles in the church (1 Cor. 14:33b-36).

As to salvation and being in Christ, gender is irrelevant (Gal. 3:28). But as to leadership in the church, gender roles are relevant.

1. Jesus was male. (Matt. 1:25)
 2. The apostles were male. (Lk. 6:12-16)
 3. Elders are male. (Titus 1)
 4. Those speaking in the assembly were male (1 Cor. 14:33b-36)
 5. Those teaching over men were male (1 Tim. 2:11-12).
- (Note the principle going back to creation and the fall: 1 Tim. 2:13-14)*

Note:

Though women were not the leaders, women were crucially involved. Some of Jesus' close disciples were women (Luke 8:2-3). Women were first to the tomb (Luke 24). Euodia & Synteché labored with Paul in the gospel (Phlp. 4). Prisca and her husband Aquila took Apollos aside and enlightened him (Acts 18:26). Many of the early converts in Macedonia were noble women (Acts 17). Older women trained younger women (Titus 2:3-5), and like Lois & Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5), women produce and can mold the coming generations.