

San Juan Church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus at the last Passover meal ever observed by Him, which occurred on the evening of His betrayal. There is an inseparable connection between the Passover and the Lord's Supper.

God sent nine plagues upon Pharaoh of Egypt (Exodus 8, 9, & 10), and then threatened Pharaoh and his people with the tenth plague (Ex. 11). The tenth plague was to destroy the first born among children and animals. In order that the death angel might pass over the Israelites, they were commanded to slay a lamb on the 15th day of Nisan and to sprinkle the doorposts and lintels of their homes with the blood of the Passover lamb. When the death angel saw the blood, he passed over their homes without destroying their first born. In slaying the lamb they were not to break a bone of its body (Ex. 12:46). When the Roman soldiers came to the body of Christ on the cross, they did not break His bones (John 19:32-36). Therefore, the Passover lamb was a type of Christ, who is our Passover now (1 Cor. 5:7).

About 1,500 years after the Passover was instituted for the Israelites, we find Jesus with His disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem, observing with them for the last time, the Passover Feast (Luke 22:19-20). This is when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-25). After the establishment of the church, we find the early Christians observing the Lord's Supper (Act 2:42). When and how often did these early Christians partake of the Lord's Supper? Paul waited in Troas with the disciples and "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread"...(Acts 20:7). This scripture indicates that the purpose of their gathering together was to partake of the Lord's Supper. Paul also instructed the church at Corinth that they were partaking of the Lord's Supper in "an unworthy manner," and gave this instruction to them, "when you come together as a church" they were to eat this supper in an orderly fashion and to "proclaim the Lord's death until He comes," (1 Cor.11:17-21, 26-27, 33). These scriptures clearly teach that the Lord's Supper is to be observed on the first day of the week when the church comes together, and not once a quarter or on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

The writer of Hebrews told us "not to forsake our own assembling together, as is the habit of some," (Heb. 10:25). The apostles commanded the first century church to assemble on the first day of the week (1 Cor.16:2). The reason we observe the Lord's Supper is for a memorial service (Luk 22:19) and to proclaim to each other and the world the death, burial, resurrection, and coming of Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Does the church you attend remember the Lord each first day of the week by observing the Lord's Supper as the early Christians did?

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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