IT IS WRITTEN

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."—MATTHEW 4:4:

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J. W. BEDINGFIELD, Editor - - - - - - - - -P. 0. Box 324, Carlsbad, N. M.

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IS IT SCRIPTURAL TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE LORD'S SUPPER, OR COMMUNION, ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK?

By Bert Weakley
Modesto, Calif.

It has been called to my attention, recently, that some of our brethren are teaching, and some are putting into practice, of having two separate services on the Lord's Day, so that some who are unable to attend and partake of the bread and the cup at one service, can do so at the other.

Now, I am very sure that those who practice this, are just as firm, loyal, and conscientious, as those who do not. I am sure that all are doing what they think is right, according to the Bible, or seemingly right by their interpretation, but let us remember what Solomon said in Proverbs 14-12: "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death." Therefore, if I think one way is right, and someone else thinks another way is right, one of us is bound to be wrong, and both of us could be, consequently we should look to the scriptures to see who is right. That is the only way, and I mean the one way to find the answer to anything one practices or preaches, for Paul said in **II** Tim. 3-16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto every good work." In Acts 20:20, Paul told these people that he had kept back nothing that was profitable to them, and in the 27th verse, he said that he had shunned not to declare the whole council of God, so why can not we take what the Apostle Paul taught and practiced, as our criterion, especially in regards to the commands about the Lord's Supper, or communion. Why should one try to add to, or take from God's Holy Word, knowing the condemnation that awaits them? In I Cor. 10:1-11, Paul talking about the children **of** Israel, who disobeyed and did not live up to the commandments of God, who either added to, or took from His law; Paul said that God was not well pleased with them, and they were overthrown in the wilderness.

He goes on to say, that these things were examples for us, that we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. The sin of commission, is just as great as the sin of omission. The sin of presumption is just as great as the sin of knowing what to do, and not doing it. So let us now go back to the Old Testament, and the giving of the law of the passover, and see if we can find precept and example for our meeting on the first day of the week, to commemorate, the death and suffering of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In Exodus 12:21-28 God gave the law of the passover, and just exactly how it should be kept, (He didn't say NOT to do a lot of things) only what the children of Israel SHOULD do, and they did it just exactly that way. If they had deviated one way or the other, God most assuredly would have killed their first born, just as He did to the rest of the peope of Egypt.

In the 9th chapter of Numbers, beginning with the 1st verse, and on through the 5th, the people were to keep the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, but in the sixth verse, through the twelfth, He said that if a person was on a long journey, or was unclean by reason of a dead body, they were to be excused from keeping it THAT DAY, but that it must be kept on the fourteenth day of the second month. Then in the thirteenth verse, God said the man who was clean, and not on a journey, that did not keep it would be cut off. In the 14th verse God goes on to say, if a stranger sojourns among you, and will keep the passover, according to the manner thereof, so shall he do. Ye shall have ONE ordinance both for the stranger and for him that is born in the land. In other words, God was no respecter of persons, as to the passover. It could not be switched around to suit some man's convenience, neither could it be delayed, except when a person was on a journey, or unclean, neither could any one examine the other, or examine a stranger, as to their cleanliness or uncleanliness, as some of us try to do today.

Now can we find an example where it was not prepared and kept fully as God commanded? Turn to II Chronicles 30:1-4. We find here King Hezekiah sent to Israel and Judah, also to Ephriam and Manassah, that they should come to the HOUSE OF THE LORD at JERUSALEM, to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel, for the king had taken council, and his princes and all the congregation in Jerusalem to keep the passover in the second month, for they could not keep it at that time, (the fourteenth day of the first month) because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER in JERUSALEM, and the thing pleased the king and all the congregation. The next verse says a decree to make a proclamation throughout all Israel from Dan to Beersheba, that they should come to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem, for they had not done it a long time in such SORT AS IT WAS WRITTEN.

No doubt a large part of them

had been keeping the passover, as to their way of thinking, but here it says, "not according to as it was written." Continuing on through the chapter, we find that when it was kept on the fourteenth day of the second month, and after all the people had been cleansed either through the sanctification of the priests and Hezekiah's prayer to God. The Lord harkened to Hezekiah and the people.

This most assuredly then was an example for us, showing one law or command for ALL of God's people. One kind of obedience for all people, a complete subjection to as "It was written."

In Heb. 10:28-29 Paul says, "He that despised Moses law, died without mercy under two or three witnesses, of how much sorer punishment ye shall be thought worthy of, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant where with he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite to the spirit of grace." Gold told Noah to make an Ark, just how wide it was to be, and just how long it was to be, and just how high. What kind of wood to put in it, and where to put the door and window. Do you think that God would have accepted Noah's years of labor, in buidling the ark, if Noah had built it one inch wider, and one inch shorter, (the same number of square feet would have still been in it). Or if he had used one plank of some other kind of wood, besides Gopher wood, or would have placed the door some other place, besides where God had commanded, or added another for convenience sake? M o s t assuredly, God would have condemned both Noah and the ark.

When God told Moses, in Exodus chapters 26 and 26, to build a tabernacle, He told him just what to put in it, what it was to be built out of, and just how to build it, and God admonished Moses to make it according to the pattern shown him in the mount. (also in Heb. 8:5) Would God have accepted the Tabernacle if Moses had added to, or taken from the commands of God? Therefore, as Paul said in Heb. 2, "we ought to give the more earnest heed to THE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, lest at any time we snould let them slip, for if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall w escape if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the LORD, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him." Can you my brother or sister, doubt this? I am sure that you do not even wish to, so let us turn now and listen to our Lord speaking of this; first in Matt. 26, Mk. 14, and Luke 22. Christ here showed His disciples just how to keep the communion, and why it was to be kept, but He did not tell them when to keep it, because the old law was still in force and effect, but He did tell His Apostles, after He had risen from the dead, to teach the people to observe all things, He had commanded them, and on Pentecost and after, don't you believe that the Apostles were confirming unto us, the things spoken by the Lord, that

was heard by them?

In Acts 20, we find Disciples of Christ meeting on the first day of the week to break bread, and Paul was there, and preached unto them. I am sure we all agree, that the reason for the disciples being gathered together on the first day of the week, was to break bread, or to keep the Lord's Supper, as it is commonly called. In Acts 2, we find the Apostles, on the day of Pentecost, and the Christian converts, continuing in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread. The Day of Pentecost came on the first day of the week, and all of God's children were in the right place at the same time. All had been cleansed, after the same pattern, and therefore all were entitled to partake that one time, that one day.

In I Cor. 11:20 Paul says that when those people at Corinth, came together in one place, as did the disciples in Acts 2, and in Acts 20, that this is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in eating some were hungered, and in drinking some were drunken, then Paul goes on to say (and we should pay very close attention to the wording of this), "For I have received of the Lord, that which I also delivered unto you, that the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and said, take eat. This is my body, which is broken for you, THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE of me. After the same manner also, He took the cup, when He had supped, saying this cup is the new testament in my blood, this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me, for as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come."

Now Paul did not say to take this every day, neither did he say not to, but we are keeping it according to the pattern Acts 2, and Acts 20. On the first day of the week, when the church comes together in one place at one time, just the same as the people in Hezekiah's time, had to keep the passover. The people had to be gathered together in Jerusalem. Therefore we should gather together (each congregation) in their meeting place, on the first day of the week, to keep the Lord's Supper.

There is no command in the New Testament, to meet in the morning, or in the afternoon, or in the evening, but there is a command, not to forsake the assembling of our selves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see the day approaching, Heb. 10:25. This most assuredly is the Lord's Day, the first day of the week. If it is the end of time, then why should one exhort another to be there, for we will all be there, before the judgment bar of God, regardless of whether we are admonished to be there or not. Consequntly if the church is to come together in one place as in I Cor. 14, we know that we can't all speak with tongues. Why therefore if the whole church is come together in one place, can't there be just ONE communion service and be scriptural?

We can not find precepts or example for more than one Lord's supper. We can not find pre-

cepts or example where the disciples met other than together, at one time, to break bread, or keep the Lord's Supper. My advice to all who ask is this: If you can read, as it is written, that do. If not, leave it alone, for you could be like the people of old about keeping the passover. They kept it not according to the ordinance delivered them.

As for myself, it does not make any difference what time of day on the first day of the week, a congregation might meet, as long as the whole congregation is there, but I would be afraid to allow the congregation I meet with, to have more than one service, (or to break bread, in our congregation here, more than once on the same Lord's Day).

I am not condemning any one who believes and practices other wise, because you are not my servant, neither am I your master, for to your own master, you standeth or falleth, but I will say this without fear of any successful contradiction by the New Testament, that people who practice and allow more than one Lord's Supper on the first day of the week are allowing and doing something that is not "as it is written."

I hope that all of the brethren will take this lesson and study it in the same spirit in which I am writing it, in the spirit of love, and if I misconstrue, misrepresent, add to, or take from the word of God, I stand in danger of the judgment, and if I lead a brother or sister astray, I will also have to answer for that before God, and the host of Heaven. I can not find any scripture, or even an inference of two separate services by the same congregation, on the first day of the week. (For the purpose of breaking bread). As I said a few lines ago; I am not condemning a brother who does, for perhaps I am doing something that is a lot more damnable in the eyes of God.

I try to do as Paul said in I Cor. 11, "Wherefore who so ever shall eat this bread and drink this cup unworthily shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord, but let a man examine HIMSELF, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup, for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you."

If something like this should ever face us here, I am sure that all of us here would get together and arrive at a certain time on the Lord's day, when we could all be present. Perhaps some of us would have to make a sacrifice. I myself, all of my life, (and I am sure that some of the brethren who are reading this have known me for over thirty years) would never take a job, knowing that I had to work on the Lord's Day, or lose my job. Perhaps as far as dollars and cents are concerned, I would have a lot more of them now had I done so, but I was reared in a Christian home that never let anything come between you and the worship, and to speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where it is silent.

I am sure that if a congregation meets one time on each first day of the week, to commemorate the

death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they will be doing, "AS IT IS WRITTEN," so why take a chance?

Bert Weakley, 413 Rowland, Modesto, Calif.

As we go to press this month, we have just returned from four weeks work in Oregon. We found the fields white and ready for the harvest in this fine part of the country, but laborers are few, and as in so many places, the forces of evil and error are thriving. Most of our work was centered at Salem, where we preached an eight-day meeting, in addition to considerable personal work. We also engaged in a four-night discussion of the breaking of the bread, with Bro. Orville Lee Smith, of Salem. In all, we succeeded in changing over four people, who had met with the individual bread breakers in the past. The opposition did not gain any over to their position, so we count this a positive proof that many people are still hungry for the truth of God's word, and that many will still accept it as "It Is Written." We want to publicly thank the fine brethren of Eugene, Oregon, Yakima, Washington, and Modesto, Calif., for their loyal support and fellowship in the work at Salem. Our meeting at Salem was attended by several families from both Yakima and Eugene. Brother Warren Scott of Abilene was in charge of the song services, and, though he is a young man, (seventeen years old) he proved himself a willing and able worker for the Lord. In our discussion with the individual bread breakers, Brother Roy McCay of Eugene moderated for me, and did an excellent job, proving himself to be well posted, as well as being very fair and patient, under the most trying conditions, when Bro. Smith and his moderator, Bro. Gayland Osburn, unable to stand in the face of the truth, resorted to every device that they could plot and plan, to try to keep the truth from reaching the audience, even denying that Bro. Smith had introduced a certain argument in his second affirmative speech of the second night of the discussion. Fortunately, we had our tape recorder going, so we were able to prove their claims false to any and all who cared to listen to the recording.

We feel that we have laid the ground work for a very successful effort in that section of the country, but previous preaching engagements made it necessary for me to return to N. M. at this time, but if the Lord wills, I will return to Oregon to continue the work begun, this fall. I would like to say, that any man who is able to preach the word, and who would like to go to a healthy and prosperous location, will find Oregon an ideal place. There seemed to be plenty of work, at fair wages, and living costs in line with that of most other prats of the country, and though our brethren are separated by quite a distance between congregations, the cooperation and interest in the work is excellent.

On our return trip, we visited with Bro. and Sister Hubbard and Bro. and Sister Rex Mickey at Cave Junction, Oregon, and found all well with them.

We began the meeting at Aztec, N. M. yesterday, (July 14)

with a fair crowd, and excellent singing. Brother and Sister Bud Wilkerson of Yuma stopped and met with us. They are moving from Yuma to Delta, Colo. We were very glad to have them with us. Brother Mitchell is not here at present, but has gone to California. Our next meeting is at Furnish Canyon, Colorado, followed by one at Bellflower, Calif. Pray for us in our efforts.—J.W.B.

"MOVING WITH FEAR"

B. J. C. Spurlin

We have advanced in Heb. 11: 7, f iv e outstanding thoughts: First, is Noah's unfeigned Faith. Second, is the fact that he was warned of God. Third, he moved with f ea r Fourth, he was prompted to obey God, by preparing an ark. Fifth, he became an heir of righteousness.

Let us now, consider the above thoughts in rotation. What think ye? If Noah's faith had weakened to the extent that he said, "surely God would not have me and my family oppose the whole world." Think of it; only eight people, to undertake a task of building an ark, with all the world opposing him. Now, the second thought. He was warned of God. Are we warned of God? Brethren, Sisters, sinner friends, we most assuredly are. Yes and Noah moved with fear, or in other words, he gave heed to God's warning. Just here, we notice Eccl. 12:13 "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." And too, we are made to wonder just what will become of those, who are weak in faith, indifferent to the warning, careless in their movements, (not moving with fear), never seem to make any preparations to obey God, but stubbornly rebel against His will, while testifying that they are heirs of righteousness. We are persuaded that had the Church members in the Church of Christ, manifested a faith as Noah did, heeded the warning, moved with fear, prepared to serve God by faith, there never would have been a division, but since God's people are divided and sub-divided all over the land and country, we know that somewhere, some time, they turned their ears away from the truth, and were turned to fables. II Tim. 4:4. Will they come back? Not as a whole, never. Then what can we do? Just a few in number. We can do as Noah did. Just as sure as Noah was numbered with the faithful, we can meet God's approval, and be saved. Rev. 22: 14 "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."

I just returned from a visit among friends and relatives in California.

I was very deeply impressed by the wonderful work being carried on there by the church. It seems most places we go and hear from the church it is asleep and indifferent, but not so in Bryte, California. Brother J. S. Bedingfield and Brother Lowery are wide awake and keeping the young folks interested and working.

Every boy is able to give a lesson. They range from twelve years up to eighteen. The young

boys that are not members take part in studying the lesson for the coming Lord's Day. No the girls are not left out. They all come to the home of Brother Bedingfield for help and he and his dear old companion spend a great deal of their time studying with, and instructing the boys and girls. I noticed the older girls taking notes so they could help their younger brothers. All the boys I had the opportunity of hearing speak were wonderful, but I was especially impressed by one little dark eyed fellow, of whom you could scarcely see more than his head above the stand. His flow of speech was so smooth, and his number of scriptures almost unbelievable. After these younger boys gave their portion of the lesson, young Brother Ervin Tibbs took over and rounded out the lesson very ably.

Many people are being attracted by the ability of these boys and coming out to hear them. It would be wonderful if more of these boys and girls could be reached at a tender age before sin has scarred their souls.

I enjoyed my visit to the Bellflower church where Brother Broadway ably submitted the lesson. I reached home June 29 to find a good meeting in progress at Lorenzo with Brother W. H. Francis doing the preaching. No baptisms but much good was done toward strengthening and encouraging the church. The association with people like Brother and Sister Francis always gives us a lift.

I am sorry to report Brother Howard Studor entered the hospital on the 25th of June with pneumonia. He is much better and is expected home soon. He was greatly missed during the meeting. We pray for a speedy recovery.

In Christian love, Maude Scott.

COMING MEETINGS

July 28 to August 4, we will be at Furnish Canyon Church, near Kenton, Okla. We invite all who can to be with us in this meeting. Visitors may get in touch with Bro. F. F. Francis, or Bro. J. C. Whitley at Kenton, Okla. We would like to see all of our dear friends and brethren from Western Oklahoma and North Texas in this meeting. Come and be with us.

On August 11 through August 18, I will be with the faithful at Bellflower, Calif. The Church there has asked that a warm and sincere welcome be extended to all who can, to come and be with us. I am sure that all visitors will enjoy meeting and associating with these fine people at Bellflower, as we always have.

On August 25 through September 1, we will be back at Nocona, Texas, at the West Side Church of Christ, where all will enjoy a hearty welcome.

Brethren: I am omitting all financial reports this month, because I have not been home since the last report, and do not have access to the records. This paper is being mailed to the printer from Aztec. Next month, we will report for July and August. Our sincere thanks to all of our helpers, just the same.