

The One True Church

Jesus said He would build His church.

Matt. 16:18, “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

There is but one church.

Eph. 4:4, “*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*”

Col. 1:18, “*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*”

The church was started in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, 30 A. D.

Acts 2:1, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*”

Acts 2:37-42, “*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*”

The voice of history.

TIME	PLACE	FOUNDER	CHURCH
606 A. D.	Rome	Boniface III	Roman Catholic
1520 A. D.	Germany	Martin Luther	Lutheran
1534 A. D.	England	Henry VIII	Episcopalian
1536 A. D.	Switzerland	John Calvin	Presbyterian
1550 A. D.	England	Robert Browne	Congregational
1607 A. D.	Holland	John Smythe	Baptist
1739 A. D.	England	John Wesley	Methodist
1830 A. D.	America	Joseph Smith	Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
1830 A. D.	America	William Miller	Adventists
1866 A. D.	America	Mary Baker Eddy	Christian Scientist
1872 A. D.	America	Charles T. Russell	Jehovah's Witnesses
1876 A. D.	America	Mr. & Mrs. James White	7 th -Day Adventists
1907 A. D.	America	Howard Hoople	Holiness Church
1914 A. D.	America	Group of Holiness	Assemblies of God

Its Founder – Christ.

He is its purchaser. Acts 20:28, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

He is its builder. Matt. 16:18, *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

He is its head. Eph. 5:22-23, *“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body.”*

He is its lawgiver.

Acts 2:36, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Matt. 17:5, “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

Matt. 28:18, “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

2 Tim. 2:5, “And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

He is its Savior. Eph. 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

Its foundation – the Son of God.

This rock. Matt. 16:13-18, “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

The laid foundation. 1 Cor. 3:11, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The tried foundation. Isa. 28:16, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”

The apostolic foundation. Eph. 2:20, “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”

Its Origin in 30 A. D.

Matt. 16:18, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Acts 2:31, “He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.”

Mark 9:1-2, “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.”

Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

Isa. 2:2-3, “*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*”

Luke 24:49, “*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*”

Its designations – by apostolic authority.

Christ called it:

“My church”, Matt. 16:18, “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

“My kingdom”

Luke 22:30, “*That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*”

John 18:36, “*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*”

“The kingdom of heaven”, Matt. 16:19, “*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*”

“The kingdom of God”, John 3:5, “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

Apostles called it:

“The church”, Col. 1:18, “*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*”

“The church of God”

1 Cor. 1:2, “*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*”

Gal. 1:13, “*For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it.*”

Acts 20:28, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*”

Note: It was the blood of Jesus that was shed and purchased the church; thus this is God, the Son; not God, the Father.

“Churches of Christ”, Rom. 16:16, “*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.*”

“The house of God”, 1 Tim. 3:15, “*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*”

“The household of God”, Eph. 2:19, “*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*”

“The household of faith”, Gal. 6:10, “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*”

“The kingdom of God”.

Acts 28:23, “*And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.*”

Acts 28:31, “*Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*”

“The kingdom of God’s dear Son”, Col. 1:13, “*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son;*”

“A kingdom which cannot be moved”, Heb. 12:28, “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*”

No other name allowed.

Acts 4:10-12, “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Its membership – persons who:

Hear the word of the gospel.

Rom. 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Acts 18:8, “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

Believe the gospel.

Acts 18:8, “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

1 Cor. 1:21, “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

Repent of their sins.

Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 3:19, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”

Confess Jesus.

Acts 8:37, “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Rom. 10:10, “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Are baptized.

Buried.

Rom. 6:4, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Col. 2:12, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

In water.

Acts 8:36-39, “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

Acts 10:47-48, “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”

To wash away sins. Acts 22:16, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

For remission of sins. Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

To be saved. 1 Pet. 3:21, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Into Christ. Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Into the one body, the church. 1 Cor. 12:13, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

Its worship – “In spirit and in truth”.

Communion.

1 Cor. 10:16, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”

1 Cor. 11:20-30, “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own

supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus 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 often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and 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, and many sleep."

Acts 20:7, "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*"

Singing.

Eph. 5:17-19, "*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*"

Col. 3:16, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*"

Praying.

Acts 2:42, "*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*"

1 Thess. 5:17, "*Pray without ceasing.*"

1 Thess. 5:25, "*Brethren, pray for us.*"

Giving.

1 Cor. 16:1-2, "*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*"

2 Cor. 9:7, "*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*"

Teaching.

Acts 2:42, “*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*”

1 Tim. 3:15, “*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*”

1 Cor. 1:18, “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”

Acts 20:7, “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*”

Its work – saving souls.

Preaching the gospel.

1 Thess. 1:8, “*For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.*”

2 Cor. 11:7-8, “*Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.*”

1 Cor. 1:18, “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”

Providing for its poor.

Acts 4:34-35, “*Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.*”

Acts 6:1-7, “*And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*”

1 Tim. 5:16, *“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.”*

Edifying one another. Eph. 4:11-16, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

Its doctrine – the New testament.

Christ is the lawgiver.

Eph. 4:7-16, *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

Eph. 5:24, *“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”*

The apostles’ teaching is its manual.

Acts 2:42, *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

Eph. 2:20, *“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”*

We can accept no other message.

Gal. 1:8-9, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*”

Matt. 15:13, “*But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.*”

2 John 1:9, “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*”

Isa 8:20, “*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*”

Matt. 15:9, “*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*”

Eph. 4:14-15, “*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*”

Its organization – congregational.

Each local church is independent of other local churches.

Self-governing under Christ.

Acts 14:23, “*And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.*”

1 Pet. 2:25, “*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*”

Phil. 1:1, “*Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:”*

With bishops (elders) who feed, tend, rule, and oversee the flock.

Acts 20:17, “*And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.”*

Acts 20:28, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*”

1 Pet. 5:2-4, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

1 Tim. 3:1-7, "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

Heb. 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

With deacons to serve. 1 Tim. 3:8-13, "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

With members who minister. 1 Cor. 12:24-27, "For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

Its destiny – heaven.

By heaven's wisdom it was purposed. Eph. 3:10-11, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

By heaven's love it was purchased.

Eph. 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,"

Acts 20:28, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

By heaven’s grace it is kept.

Rom. 5:2, *“By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*

Eph. 1:7, *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”*

Heb. 4:16, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

By heaven’s glory it hopes.

2 Tim. 2:10, *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”*

Heb. 2:10, *“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”*

1 Pet. 5:1, *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.”*

1 Pet. 5:10, *“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*

To heaven it will go.

1 Pet. 1:4, *“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”*

Col. 1:5, *“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;”*

To heaven it will remain.

1 Thess. 4:17, *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

1 Cor. 15:24, *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.”*

In heaven it shall rest. Heb. 4:8-11, *“For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his*

own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

Its message – the gospel.

Facts to believe.

Death of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:1-3, *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;”*

Burial of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:4, *“And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”*

Resurrection of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:4-9, *“And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”*

Commands to obey.

1 Thess. 4:2, *“For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.”*

1 Cor. 14:37, *“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”*

2 Pet. 3:2, *“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:”*

Promises to enjoy.

Remission of sins.

Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

Acts 3:19, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

Communion of the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 13:14, *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”*

Eternal life.

Rev. 2:10, “*Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*”

Rev. 22:14, “*Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*”

From heaven to you – the way of salvation.

Through what medium does God speak to man today?

His Son.

Heb. 1:1-2, “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*”

Matt. 17:1-8, “*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.*”

Heb. 3:1, “*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*”

If Christ is now at the Father’s right hand in heaven, how can He speak now?

Through the apostles whom He chose before He left the earth.

Acts 1:1-2, “*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen.*”

John 15:16, “*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit*

should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

John 15:26-27, *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”*

Matt. 28:16-20, *“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Mark 16:14-20, *“Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”*

Luke 24:44-49, *“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”*

Since all of the apostles are dead, how can Christ speak through them now?

They have put in writing what they once they delivered orally.

1 Tim. 3:14-15, *“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou*

oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17, *“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 all good works.”*

Eph. 3:3-4, *“How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)”*

John 20:30-31, *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

John 21:24-25, *“This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”*

Where must we look to find what God says?

In the apostles' written teachings of the New Testament.

1 Pet. 1:12, *“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”*

Eph. 3:5, *“Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”*

2 Tim. 3:16-17, *“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 all good works.”*

2 Pet. 3:15-16, *“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”*

Is there any spiritual need to which the apostles' doctrine does not supply the answer?

No.

John 7:17, *"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."*

Acts 2:42, *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

1 Cor. 2:10-13, *"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."*

2 Pet. 1:1-10, *"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."*

2 Tim. 3:16-17, *"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 all good works."*

Was the Holy Spirit active in revealing the will of God through the apostles?

Yes. Christ promised the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles.

John 14:15-18, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may*

abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 15:26-27, “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”

John 16:7-14, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

Luke 24:48-49, “And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:1-5, “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”

Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

1 Pet. 1:12, “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy

Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

Eph. 3:5, *“Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”*

Does the one true church serve as the preserver of the apostles’ teaching?

No. The church is the result of the apostles’ teaching.

Acts 18:8, *“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”*

1 Cor. 1:2, *“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”*

1 Cor. 15:1-4, *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”*

Does the one true church serve as the interpreter of the apostles’ teaching?

No. Every person who can read intelligently can understand God’s written word.

Eph. 3:1-7, *“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.”*

John 20:30-31, *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

1 Tim. 3:14-15, *“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou*

oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17, *“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 all good works.”*

Since Jesus is the Son of God, to what is He entitled?

Everything He claimed for Himself.

Matt. 28:18, *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”*

Phil. 2:5-11, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Since Jesus has all authority, what is necessarily implied?

That He has the God-given right to command all men everywhere to obey Him.

Heb. 5:8-9, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”*

Matt. 17:5, *“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”*

Acts 17:30-31, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”*

What commands does He issue to saints?

Observe what He commanded the apostles to teach.

Matt. 28:20, *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Does Christ give any motives for obeying Him?

Yes. Promises to the obedient.

Mark 16:15-16, “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”

Heb. 5:8-9, “*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*”

And promises to the disobedient.

Mark 16:16, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”

2 Thess. 1:7-9, “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*”

Why worship on Sunday?

First, the church worships on Sundays because some special events happened on that day.

Jesus rose on the first day of the week.

Mark 16:9, “*Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*”

The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles that day.

Acts 2:1-4, “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

This day of “Pentecost” literally means “fifty days.” It was a special feast of the Jewish Law which was to be observed fifty days after their Passover Feast.

Lev. 23:11, 15, “*And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. ... And ye shall count unto you from*

the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete.”

It is to be “on the morrow, after the sabbath.”

So, the day on which the apostles received the Holy Spirit was on a Sunday.

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ began on that day.

Acts 2:37-42, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

They were added together in fellowship and began to evangelize throughout the world. From this moment on in the New Testament, one can see a change, for the church of the Lord was now in existence.

The church met on Sunday to remember, in a special meal of worship, the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Acts 20:7, “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

The churches of Christ continued to meet throughout the years on Sundays, and were given additional instructions about other things.

They were told to “lay by in store” on this first day. 1 Cor. 16:1-2, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

They were also to use this time for “exhorting one another.” Heb. 10:25-26, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,”

Bible scholars state that the actual meaning of assembling on the first day of the week in the Greek is actually assembling on the first day of every week.

The early Christians did not observe the Lord's Supper on any other day than the first day of the week.

The reference to daily breaking bread at home in the 2nd chapter of Acts was not a reference to observing the Lord's Supper, but that the early Christians met often and shared meals together. "*Breaking bread*" was a common term for eating a meal. The command to observe the Lord's Supper was on the first day of the week.

Paul was in haste to get back to Jerusalem in time for the day of Pentecost. He arrived at Troas on a Tuesday, but did not continue his travel until the next Monday because he wanted to meet with the brethren there on the first day of the week when they assembled to break bread. He had much to say to the entire assembly so he spoke to midnight when they took a break; then he continued his speech until dawn on Monday before he continued his journey to Jerusalem.

Paul did not call to have this special assembly in the middle of the week. To do so would have been adding to the Lord's command to meet upon the first day of the week to observe the communion.

Acts 20:6-7, "And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."

Acts 20:16, "For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hastened, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost."

The early Christians did meet daily, but that was in smaller groups when they went out by twos and threes to preach the gospel at people's homes. When they did this they also had meals at these homes, but it was not the Lord's Supper.

There was a daily gathering in the Jewish temple for learning the Jewish law, but the commandments concerning the sabbath were not applied in those assemblies.

We can have daily gatherings today, but not for the purpose of observing the Lord's Supper.

Second, the churches of Christ worship on Sundays because of a very important principle. Jesus said when his disciples went into all the world, they were to teach the disciples "... to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20).

Now, when one sees the early churches observing the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, it follows that the apostles taught them to do so. If the apostles taught them to eat the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, it was done in order to follow the commandments of Jesus. So, the example of the churches in the New Testament is very important, as they were being taught personally by the apostles.

Third, the evidence of historians is overwhelming that the churches met on Sundays for worship in honor of Christ.

Ignatius of Antioch, reputable historian, lived between 37 A.D. and 108 A.D. He wrote, "Let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection day, the queen and chief of all days (of the week)."

Justin Martyr lived between 100 and 165 A.D. He wrote, "And on the day called Sunday, all who live in the cities and the country gather together to one place ... bread and (fruit of the vine) are brought ... there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given ... Sun is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the day Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead." Justin shows the practices of the early church continuing into the second century.

The Old Testament Sabbath

Exo. 20:8, "*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*"

This covenant was one given to the Israelites only. It was a sign between God and Israel.

Exo. 31:17, "*It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*"

It was the seventh day, a day on which the Jews were to rest.

Exo. 20:9-10, "*Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*"

Christians are to keep the first day of the week holy.

Heb. 10:25-26, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*"

Heb. 10:27-29, "*But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant,*

wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

The punishment for any Jew not observing the Sabbath was stoning.

The warning to Christians in the Hebrew letter is the Christian who takes the assembly on the first day of the week lightly is placing himself in danger of a much sorer punishment. Paul indicates in his letter that this is a serious matter.

Christians need to seriously consider these things when that first day of the week approaches.