

1 Corinthians 11:26, 33— This verse says we show the Lord's death as _____ as we eat this bread and drink this cup until the Lord _____.

Verse 33 says "when you come _____ to eat." They were to come together regularly, often, frequently to break bread in memory of the Savior. How frequently? On the first day of the week! (Acts 20:7).

"THE ASSEMBLING"

Hebrews 10:24-26 — We are to provoke one another to increase in love and good works. We do this by not forsaking the _____ of ourselves together, as is the _____ of some.

- **FORSAKING** — He is not referring to totally abandoning the attendance of the church. Obviously when someone totally quits going to church altogether they have forsaken the assembly. But the word "forsaking" also has reference to someone who partially or temporarily quits assembling himself (Isaiah 54:7). The warning and command is clear to all. "Do not abandon or leave the assembly in the lurch, not even one time." The assembly on the first day of the week is ordained of God.
- **ASSEMBLING** — The word "assembling" in the Greek is *episunagoge*, from which we derive the English word "synagogue." "Assembly" is defined by Strong's Greek Lexicon as "**a complete collection.**" There should be a "complete collection" of Christians on Sunday, with no one missing that is physically able to be there.
- **WILLFUL SIN** — To choose to forsake this assembly willfully would be a sin against God (Hebrews 10:26). "Willfully" means that you had a choice and that you voluntarily chose to do something else such as work or go fishing, instead of attending the Sunday assembly. Some had the MANNER, or CUSTOM, or HABIT of not attending the public worship. For some this was a recurring act.

Summary: God has chosen the first day of the week as the day on which he desires his servants to gather in an assembly to eat the Lord's supper and give according to what they prospered during the previous week. As the disciples did on the first day of the week, when Jesus rose from the grave, we today also rejoice with exceeding joy and worship God with great gladness on this day. In our next lesson, we will study in more detail the Lord's supper.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Lesson 9



Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

Both the Jews and Romans considered the first day of the week to be the day we call "Sunday." Jesus established this day as spiritually significant.

THE LORD'S DAY

Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1-3, 6, 7— The foundation of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which occurred on the

_____ day of the week. Following his resurrection, He appeared alive to over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6). As 1 Corinthians 15:14 declares, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." The resurrection of Jesus is a cornerstone of the church of Christ. It is only appropriate that God should select this day as the day of public worship.

Psalms 118:22-24— This is a prophecy concerning Jesus. He was the stone which the builders _____ by nailing him to a cross. Then by his resurrection, He became the chief cornerstone of the church (Acts 4:10-11). His resurrection is the LORD'S doing and is marvelous in our eyes. Then he says, "This is the day the LORD has _____, we will _____ and be glad in it. The Lord made Sunday (the day of the resurrection) the day upon which we should assemble and rejoice, as the first disciples did in Luke 24:41 and John 20:19-20 when they beheld the risen Savior in their assembly.

Revelation 1:10— John, while in exile on the Isle of Patmos, was in the Spirit on “the _____ day.” It was the **day of the Lord’s resurrection** (the first day of the week) when John received this vision and revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1,41, 47— Verse 41 states that Lord added about _____ souls to the church on **that day**. According to verse 1, this all happened on the day of _____. The word “Pentecost” means the “fiftieth” day from Passover. According to Lev.23:15-16, Pentecost (feast of weeks) always fell on the _____ after the seventh Sabbath (Saturday). Did the Lord add the saved to His church for the first time on the first day of the week ? _____ Sunday was the birthday of the church.

THE OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:1-2— The inspired apostle had given _____ to the churches in the region of Galatia regarding the collection for the needy saints, and now he **commands** the church in Corinth to do the same. On the _____ day of every week, each one of us is to “**lay by him in store**” or as the NKJV translates it, “**lay something aside, storing up**” according to how much he prospered during the previous week. The phrase “in store” or “storing up” (*thesaurizo* in the Greek) necessarily implies putting something in a treasury. Under the Old Testament, the **temple had a treasury** (John 8:20; Mark 12:41-43). **Jesus had a treasury** or money box out of which he often helped the poor and prepared for the Passover feast (John 12:6; 13:29). In like manner, 1 Corinthians 16:2 teaches that each congregation is to have a treasury. On Sunday each member is to “lay by himself” a generous percentage of his income and **store it up** in the church treasury. The money collected is to be used in helping the needy saints and faithful preachers of the gospel (2 Corinthians 11:7,8; Romans 15:26).

1 Corinthians 16:2-3 — According to the last part of verse 2, the reason for having a treasury is that there be no _____ of money when Paul came. In other words, when a need arose, the leaders of the church would not be forced to go from house to house collecting money from church members, because the church would already have funds stored up from the weekly first-day-of-the-week collections. From that treasury, the

congregation in Corinth would make a donation (a gift, or liberality) to help the needy saints in _____ (see 1 Cor.16:3).

According to 1 Cor.16:1, is the first day of the week offering optional? _____

Does this verse by specifying that we take up a collection of money on the first of the week prohibit taking up a church offering on other days? _____

Does the church have God’s permission to have raffles, sell food (bake sales), or sell religious items in order to raise funds? _____ Are we only authorized by Jesus to raise money for the church by means of the weekly collection? _____

2 Corinthians 9:6,7— Each Christian is commanded to give according as he _____ in his heart. Verse 6 states that “He who sows _____ will also reap bountifully. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:4). The Jews paid tithes of all their income (Lev.27:23; Deut.14:22). Should we today purpose in our hearts to give LESS than 10 percent of our income to the Lord? _____

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Acts 20:6-7— The disciples in Troas came together on the _____ day of the week to break _____. The purpose for this gathering of disciples was to break bread in memory of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:24). In addition to partaking of the Lord’s supper during this assembly, they listened to the preaching of the apostle Paul. It is noteworthy that the apostle Paul here in Acts 20:6 is said to have “joined them at Troas where we stayed _____ days.” They stayed seven days in order to assemble with the saints on the first day of the week! (Acts 20:7; see also Acts 21:3-4 and Acts 28:13,14 where Paul and his travelling companions stayed with the disciples in Tyre and Putoeli for seven days).

Acts 2:42 — The disciples continued _____ in the apostles teaching, and fellowship, in the _____ of bread and in prayers. These acts of worship listed here are ones that occur in the church assembly. The church in Jerusalem continued in the breaking of bread in memory of Jesus, as also the church in Troas did in Acts 20:7. It is evident that the customary, continual practice of the church was to break bread each first day of the week.