

# Changes in Pleasing Worship

By David Hartsell

The Bible is the Word of God. Careful reading of it reveals how we can please our Lord in all things - especially worship. This is precisely the problem among many professed disciples. They don't "carefully" examine the scriptures. As a result, the focus of their worship, the priority of Jesus' authority, and those who are to take the lead in worship are entirely missed. Let us consider God's will concerning each of these three areas.

The Lord is at the heart of our worship. A youthful Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself spiritually. (Dan.1:8) Jesus taught the Samaritan woman that God desires that our spirit communes with His. (Jn.4:23-24) Paul warned that to eat the Lord's Supper without properly reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice would bring spiritual death. (1 Cor.11:27-30) In spite of these obvious truths, many change the focus of worship from the Lord to intellectualism or to entertaining others. We should give our best as we honor God. Yet, when we choose speakers based on their educational degrees or their turn of a joke, we are emphasizing the wrong things. When "worship" becomes "jazzed up" choruses, clapping or waving of hands, and appeals to emotions over God's Word, we have missed the focal point of "true worship." The Lord wants us to center our hearts on knowing and keeping His word so that "your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (1 Cor.2:5)

Why do we worship the Lord in the first place? Fundamentally, we are made by God for Him. (Ecc.12:13-14) All of His

commands are for our spiritual benefit. (Deut.10:13) In every age God's people are expected to follow His directives. Adam and Eve ate of the "forbidden" fruit and were driven out of the paradise garden. (Gen.3:22-24) Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, violated The Lord's sacrificial system and were instantly killed by fire. (Lev.10:1-2) Timothy was warned about coming apostates who would give heed "to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." What are these horrendous ideas that would take them away from Jesus? They are the false concepts that it is wrong to marry and sinful to eat certain foods. (1 Tim.4:1-3) These regulations are man-made and not from God. Jesus said some would claim kinship to Him while not doing His will. One cannot properly honor a Lord they will not obey.

Worship in local congregations is to have a certain order. Obviously, Jesus is the head over His church. (Eph.1:22-23) He gave apostles, prophets, evangelist, and pastors to help His people mature spiritually. (Eph.4:11-12) Men are to lead in preaching and other congregational leadership roles. (1 Cor.14:33-34) When it comes to acceptable worship who would know better than God Himself? Let us be satisfied with His ways and not ours.



Sick			
Kevin Simpson (Bob Simpson's son)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller's Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Andrew Westphal	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Dale Herd (Brother of William Herd)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Diane Lewter (Kyle Lewter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Amy Baswell Hall

June Birthdays
3 - Philip Stephens
8 - Mac Searcy
9 - Kay White
11 - Hannah Alexander
11 - Clint Stagner
12 - Orié Cecil
13 - Addison Dembowski
14 - Jeremiah Johnson
16 - Kaleigh Green
17 - Sarah Norman
17 - Brooks Pender
18 - James Long
20 - Jonas Dembowski
20 - Aiden Hergett
22 - Paul Tam
23 - Micah Pittman
24 - Justin Bice
25 - Corey Hunt
28 - Clint Davis
28 - Craig Davis
29 - Lisa Lanier

**News and Notes**

☒ - Lets keep in our prayers Fallon Hartsell as she is expecting twin girls!

☒ - VBS postcards are in the foyer. Lets us work and pray for this good effort that begins next week!

☒ - There will be a weekly Tuesday night class at Ashton Guy's apartment on Tuesday Nights at 7:30. This Tuesday Ryan Hasty will be teaching about evangelism! It will be held at Eagle's Landing Unit 62. Anyone is welcome!

☒ - Joshua Carter will be speaking today.

☒ - Tonight is singing night.

☒ - Be sure to go to [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com) for latest audio and directory!

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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## The Simple Power of the Lord's Supper

By Cled E. Wallace



### Thoughts to Ponder

"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." (Acts 20:7)

The Lord's Supper is a striking example of "the simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3.) It fits admirably into the simplicity of the whole New Testament order of things. The humblest disciple, even though he be illiterate, can refresh himself in its simple power. Its richest meaning is easily accessible to him. A group of lovers of the Lord gather quietly and reverently about the table of the Lord. On the table are the things, and only those, which the Lord directed should be there. "This is my body which is given for you." "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins." There is the giving of thanks, the eating of bread, the drinking of the fruit of the vine; there is the self-examination of the participants, and the proper discernment self-examination the part of all of the body and blood of the Lord, and hearts are animated anew with the hope of his return "to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all them that believe in that day." (2 Thes. 1:10.) This simplicity should be guarded by the use of "sound words." Such terms as "sacrament" and "eucharist" have no place here. And the beauty of the simplicity of the Lord's Supper has been marred by speculations which are both foolish and unreasonable. Imagine some wiseacre arising at the table, puffed up with dignity, and pompously giving expressions to such words as these:

The Lord's table is set on resurrection day. That day is the Lord's Day. It is the first day of the week. When the first day of any week arrives, to the devout disciple that is resurrection day

"The validity of the service does not lie in the quality of its eternal signs or sacramental representation, but in its essential properties and substantial realities." The bread which Jesus took was literal bread, and so was the fruit of the vine. It was literal through the process of both eating and drinking. A mystic interpretation which would change bread and wine into literal flesh and blood was never in the mind of the Lord or his apostles, and is an outrage to all reason. The well-known rules that govern the use of figurative language were employed by Jesus and the New Testament writers. There is a very simple way in which the bread can be the body (Continued on page 2)

**Elders**  
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050  
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**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
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(Continued from page 1)

of the Lord, and the fruit of the vine his blood, without being literally so. When Jesus called Herod "that fox," nobody imagined that Jesus thought Herod was a four-legged animal who prowled around in the night in search of chicken roosts. When Jesus claimed to be the bread and water of life, his figurative language is clear. Spiritual communion with the body and blood of the Lord is made easy through the literal eating of bread and the literal drinking of wine, according to the simple instruction of the New Testament. The simplest observation of the gospel seem to challenge a certain type of mind to foolish and hurtful speculations which mystify and confuse. Allow the Lord's Supper to retain the simple power and beauty of its original observance. The Lord's Supper and the Lord's day, when properly observed, go a long way in holding the church to the faith of the gospel. Corruption of these is bound to corrupt the church.

### Concerning The Time Of Its Observance

The Jewish Passover was impressive and definitely commemorative. The details of its observance were divinely specified. Through, all the generations of Jewish history it harked back to that fateful night in Egypt when the death angel passed through the land to slay the first-born of man and beast, but exempted every house where the blood was on the door. It was an annual observance, because divine specification made it so. The very day of the month and the part of that day were matters of legislation. That day did not always come on the same day of the week, but that made no difference in an annual observance like the Passover. The day of the month was the thing. To make the Lord's Supper an annual "Easter" affair as a sort of continuation of the Passover is to miss, at least in part, the significance of both. The Lord's table is set on resurrection day. That day is the Lord's Day. It is the first day of the week. When the first day of any week arrives, to the devout disciple that is resurrection day. For the Passover, God specified the day of the month; for the Lord's Supper, he specified the day of the week. When the day of the month, which came once each year, arrived, devout Jews observed the Passover. When the day of the week, which comes once each week, arrives, devout Christians observe the Lord's Supper.

"And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on the morrow; and prolonged his speech until midnight." (Acts 20:7.)

These Troas disciples did not assemble to hear Paul preach. Incidentally, Paul did preach, but they would have met on that day "to break" had Paul not been there. It does not bear any marks of a called or special meeting to hear Paul preach. Paul tarried in Troas seven days so as to be present at this regular meeting of the disciples to break bread. If nothing more was involved in the meeting than hearing Paul preach, it might have been called and held any time during those seven days of waiting. If Paul was present for their regular assembly to break bread, he had to wait for the first day of the week. The natural conclusion to be drawn, without a notion of some sort to defend, is that the first day of the week was the regular meeting day of the Troas disciples.

And it was so with other churches. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I gave order to the churches of Galatia, so also do ye. Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that no collection be made when I come." (1 Cor. 16:2.) The scholarly Mac knight says that the original expression should be fairly translated, "upon the first day of each week." Religious people generally meet for some purpose on the first day of the week. Why? In the New Testament disciples met for the express purpose of partaking of the Lord's Supper. No reason at all exists for observing the institution on one Lord's day which does not exist on every other Lord's day. It is a peculiar interpretation that makes "often" mean about once a year. Besides, if there is nothing definite in the New Testament as to the time of observance of the Supper, then we are without rule or guidance. Each man may do that which is right in his own eyes. There would be no regularity in the practice of independent congregations, and within the congregation, individuals might conclude that once in a lifetime is sufficient. Confusion, therefore, would likely result in keeping an ordinance which is vital to the spiritual life and growth of the Lord's people. It simply does not fit the character of a memorial ordinance to be this indefinite as to the time of its observance. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is." (Heb. 10: 25.) Let that assembly be on the first day of the week, the Lord's day; and let us be sure that when we assemble, it is "possible to eat the Lord's Supper." (1 Cor. 11: 17-20.) Each week had its Sabbath for the Jew, and each week has its Lord's day for the Christian. No Lord's day should pass without the Lord's Supper.

Bible Banner – February, 1943



## Anchors in Troubled Times

By Keith Greer

Often times this world can be a cruel place. Who has lived life on this earth without facing difficulties or heartaches? Mankind will always have to deal with the three T's: testing, tribulations, and trials. The Scriptures abundantly teach this to be so (1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12-16; 5:9; 2 Tim. 3:12).

Each of us has our own burdens to bear. Some Christians seem to believe that God has placed them under a "protective umbrella," where no unpleasantness can enter. Comforting, but not accurate! Life on earth is a package deal. We must take the good and the bad (Matt. 5:45).

What do we do when these times come upon us? Where do we turn in times of trouble? Many folks make the problems worse by turning to the wrong source for help. Did God leave us without hope or recourse? Can we face life's problems and overcome them?

We can if we have some "anchors." What is an anchor? It is a source of security or stability (American Heritage Dictionary). God has provided some "anchors" to aid us in our journey down the uneven pathways of life. Do they work? Together we will endeavor to answer these questions.

**1.) The Word of God.** God's word is inspired. Who created man? Who better understands man? Who can be a better counselor? "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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). "Profitable" means for our good. God's word can equip us for every

good work. Do we turn to His word in times of trouble?

**2.) Prayer.** The Bible tells us to "pray without ceasing." "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). Do we tell God our troubles? Do we always think to pray? We have a special relationship with God, a Father and son kind of relationship. It is so sad that

people in the world do not have this blessing. We have it and don't use it. If we don't turn to Him we show a lack of trust and faith in Him. Never underestimate the security of this anchor.

**3.) The church.** Why are we called the "family of God"? Who better understands the struggles of my life as a Christian than another Christian? Read these passages: **John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:15-18; 4:19-21.** God commands us to love our brethren. When facing the onslaught that life can give you, whom do you turn to first? People of the world or your brethren? Who is going to heaven? If we don't care now, we won't get the chance to care later!

**4.) The hope of eternal life.** Why did Abraham leave his homeland? To offer Isaac on that altar? "...for he waited for the city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). He had his focus on something better! We need to keep "focused" on heaven. Read **Philippians 3:12-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4.** We are told by Paul to "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:12). This is our most prized possession. Do not allow it to slip through your hands. Troubles are temporal!



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