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Do you discern the Lord's body and show his death with the saints when they come together?

They Didn't Complain About The Time Involved

Luke says Paul was "long preaching" (Acts 20:9), and that he did not quit even at midnight (20:7). I grant that there are some special circumstances in this situation at Troas. Paul probably had established the church just months earlier on his way into Macedonia (2 Cor. 2:12). He was anxious to visit the church and see how they were doing (cf. Acts 15:36). Naturally, there would be things that he would want to say to these special people. This would justify a longer sermon than usual. However, just because Paul came to town their daily responsibilities did not disappear. They still had work to do the next day, children to care for and responsibilities at home. All of this

and even more, yet they still managed to work in an all night session to hear Paul preach (Acts 20:11). How unlike some brethren they are. Today many are continually looking for ways to shorten the assembly. In some churches it is worship "by the numbers." We have to start "on time" and quit "on time." We can sing only two songs and not all the verses because we don't want to "go over." Preachers are being forced to confine their sermons to 15 minutes. A twenty-five minute sermon is "long preaching" for some. God forbid that we should have a baptism.

We are living in troublesome times when the value of a sermon is determined by its length. Some folks are chaffing under long preaching because it is poorly prepared and delivered. However, others have a heart and mind somewhere else. They like them short because there is nothing in them. Do you have the Trojan spirit concerning worship? Credit: www.padfield.com

**Seven Steps to Humility
(Philippians 2:1-11)**

1. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit.
2. Count others better than yourselves.
3. Look not only to your own interests.
4. Look also to the interests of others.
5. Empty yourselves.
6. Take the form of a servant.
7. Become obedient unto death. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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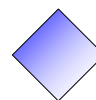


Schedule of Assembly

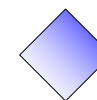
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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The Voice of Truth



April 10, 2011

"Singing Praises To God"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

God established the church of Christ in the first century and directed Christians to meet every first day of the week to worship Him. This worship included prayer, the Lord's Supper, giving, teaching and preaching, and singing.

God has always been specific about the kind of worship which man is to offer Him. He was specific in His instructions to Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:4-7; Heb. 11:4; 1 Jno. 3:12), Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-3), and Saul (1 Sam. 13:8-14), David (2 Sam. 6:1-11; 1 Chron. 15:1-13). He has been no less specific to people today (Jno. 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7; Eph. 5:19; Col. 2:18-23; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 4:13). His specificity means that we must comply with those specifics if we expect to be acceptable to Him. To fail to comply with the specifics is to depart from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1-3) and become unfaithful and unrighteous (1 Jno. 3:7; Heb. 11:4).

The passages in the New Testament that shed light on the specifics of the musical worship which God desires are Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, which say SING! From these two scriptures we learn the "truth" (Jno. 4:24) about the musical worship, that is, what is and what is not authorized by God. What are these verses, Ephesians

5:19; Colossians 3:16, telling us?

First, the worship assembly is under consideration since a "one to another" situation is described. You cannot "speak to yourselves" unless all the selves (church members) are present together. Second, the church itself is to sing. I sing to you while you sing to me and vice versa. Yes, each saint who is a member of a local congregation has the obligation to sing! No one can do this worshipping for you! The phrase "to yourselves" (KJV) or "one to another" (ASV) is a reciprocal, reflexive pronoun. It refers to interchange of action (Dana and Mantey, A manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament, pp. 131-132). In other words, you sing to me while I sing to you. We all are commanded to sing; it is your responsibility. Whenever God stipulates for a certain activity to be done by each saint in the assembly, He means for it to be done by each saint! This is why chorus groups, quartets and special singing groups are proven to be unscriptural! Also, these verses show we have no authority to stomp our feet, or clap our hands. God has told us very specifically that He wants us to sing words to each other which are used to teach and admonish one another. Anything more or less is vain worship (Matt. 15:7-9). ♦

What Is A Christian?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Those who live for the Lord are called by many different terms in the scriptures: brethren, saints, disciples, and children of God. Perhaps no term denotes one who is "of Christ" or belongs to Christ, better than the term "Christian". The term Christian appears three times in the New Testament (1 Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28). But, "What Is A Christian?"

A Christian is a disciple of Christ (Acts 11:26). A disciple is a learner (2 Timothy 2:15). God's people were always required to learn God's ways (Deuteronomy 5:1; 31:12). Christ tells His disciples to be learners of God's word

(Matthew 11:29). Paul tells us to learn in what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6). Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45; Matthew 28:18-20). One does not become a Christian through dreams or visions (John 8:30-32) or by direct working of the Holy Spirit. If conversion is produced by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit on the sinner, then obviously men do not need a Bible. If men can be converted without the Bible, then they can be converted without faith (Romans 10:17). The process of becoming and being a Christian is a learning process (2 Peter 3:18).

What is a Christian? He is a follower of Christ! Jesus left

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an example of life to be followed (**1 Peter 2:21**). Christians are *"To walk, even as he walked,"* (**1 John 2:6**). The life Christ lived is not just to be admired, talked about, or sung about, but is to be followed. Christ left us example in all things: obedience (**John 4:34; Hebrews 5:9**); purity (**1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 1:9; 1 John 3:3; Romans 12:9**). Jesus is our example in serving others (**Matthew 20:28**), in forgiving others (**Colossians 3:13**), in the work of saving souls (**Luke 19:10**), and in His love for His fellowman (**John 13.34**).

What is a Christian? A Christian is one who is not ashamed (**1 Peter 4:16**). He is not ashamed of the Lord's word (**Mark 8:38**). He is not ashamed of the gospel of

Christ (**Romans 1:16**). I'm so afraid that the church today is stepping back from what Paul said in **Romans 1:16**. Today we are finding people that are ashamed of it. And someone will say, "Not me, I'm not ashamed of it." Why aren't you living by the truth? Why aren't you practicing truth? One cannot be saved if he/she is ashamed of Christ. To be ashamed of the gospel is to be ashamed of God, Who is the Author of it. He is not ashamed to be part of the religious minority (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

The Christian is one who glorifies God (**1 Peter 4:16**). He is not ashamed for the world to know where he stands and for what he stands. The song "I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord," expresses the true sentiment of the Christian. ♦

"The Wisdom In God's Word"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Just last week I was studying with a person concerning the wisdom in God's word. Since that time, the subject has been on my mind, and I thought it might be a worthwhile study for our dear readers. By observing society, we can see that a familiarity with and a knowledge of the word of God is lacking in this world. Seeing that this is the case, man has a need for obtaining the wisdom of God found in His word. How can this be done? Is this even possible? I believe we can have access to the wisdom of God, but society at large has refused it. Why do I say this? Please read carefully the verses listed below and note what God's word can do, as well as its connection to wisdom and understanding.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (**Psalms 119:11**).

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word" (**Psalms 119:16**).

"Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart" (**Psalms 119:34**).

"Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed" (**Psalms 119:80**).

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts." (**Psalms 119:97-100**).

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (**Psalms 119:130**).

Based upon the above passages, we know God's wisdom is accessible to man through the written word. What are some applications we can make in our lives to the wisdom found in God's word?

Remember It.

David realized that the wisdom that God reveals needs to be remembered at all times (**Psalms 119:11, 16**). In fact, the first psalm shows that the righteous will gladly meditate on God's law at all times (**Psalms 1:2**). Remembering God's wisdom is not simply a mental exercise without application. In reality, it is remembering that can keep us from sin. Jesus showed us this when He was tempted by Satan and used Scripture to defeat him (**Matt. 4:1-11; 1 Pet. 2:21-22**).

It Will Not Put Us To Shame.

David understood that when his heart was "sound" in God's statutes, he would not be put to shame! (**Psalms 119:80**). Do we understand this? Sadly, we find people who are put to shame in life because they try to "muddle through" life without the wisdom found in God's word! In fact, when our hearts are "sound" (healthy, sincere, undefiled) with God's wisdom, there is no occasion for shame! We see a New Testament counterpart to **Psalms 119:80** when we read **II Timothy 2:15** and there learn about the

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workman who *"heedeth not to be ashamed"* when he handles the word of truth accurately! There are a lot of things that can put men to shame, but knowing God's word will not do it!

ObeY It.

Please notice that it is not enough simply to "know" God's word, but it is necessary to APPLY what we learn (**Psalms 119:34; Rom. 10:16; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14**; etc.). We need to "keep" and "observe" what we learn! Jesus taught this truth when He discussed the wise man that not only heard the word, but OBEYED it as well (**Matt. 7:21-27**). What a tragedy it is to see people who know what to do to

Proper Attitudes About Worship

By Jeff Asher

The history of the church at Troas is sketchy. Very little is known except what we read in **Acts 20:7-12**. Evidently Paul established this congregation near the end of his third preaching journey (**2 Cor. 2:12**). At some point they had an evangelist who worked with them by the name of Carpus to whom Paul had loaned some books (**2 Tim. 4:13**).

While little is known about their history, **Acts 20:7-12** reveals a lot about their enthusiasm and zeal for the worship of Jesus. They are a positive example of a proper attitude toward the worship of the saints for all Christians in all times.

Assembly For Worship

The Christians at Troas assembled every first day of the week to eat the Lord's Supper and engage in other acts of worship (**Acts 20:7**). Luke observes, *"the first day of the week when the disciples came together"* indicating it was their habit to do so. The fact that Paul remained in Troas for seven days further proves that this was the usual day when Christians met (cf. **Acts 20:16**).

We need to develop the habit of assembling with the saints (**Heb. 10:25**). Sunday is the *"Lord's Day"* (**Rev. 1:10**). It is the only day in the week to which we can attach any significance concerning Christ. It is the day of His resurrection (**Luke 24:1, 13, 21**). It is the day upon which He appeared alive to His disciples (**John 20:1, 11; Luke 24:30-43**). The gospel was first preached on Sunday (**Acts 2:1, 14**). The first baptism was performed on that day (**Acts**

please God, but refuse to do it! (Is this you, dear one?) Let us determine to meditate, study, and obey what we learn in the wisdom found in God's word.

It Makes Us Wiser Than The World.

Regardless of the wisdom the world may proclaim, the wisdom found in God's word makes us wiser than the world (**Psalms 119:97-100**). This should not be surprising, seeing that God's ways and thoughts are higher than man's (**Isa. 55:8-9**). God looks on the world's wisdom as foolishness that passes away (**I Cor. 1:18-21; II Jn. 2:17**). Let us take heed to God's word and thank Him for the access to such wisdom that will lead us from earth to Heaven! Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

2:41). It is the day of the week upon which the church came into existence (**Acts 2:47**). The worship of the saints upon this day of the week should inspire their hearts with love for Jesus, confidence in their salvation and zeal for the souls of men.

Do you have this habit of assembling with the saints?

They Ate The Lord's Supper In An Assembly

They *"came together"* to eat the Supper. These saints did not regard the Supper as a private devotion. Neither did they care so little for it that they carried it with them wherever they went like a sack lunch. Furthermore, Paul's determination to remain in Troas is proof this is the arrangement the Lord desires for the His Supper. The apostle could have eaten on the road, by himself or with those of his company. However, he chose to eat with disciples in their assemblies (cf. **Acts 21:4**).

They came together to break bread in order to preach Christ's death (**1 Cor. 11:26**). The Christians at Troas understood the importance of the memorial feast. They could see in it a perpetual reminder of the promise of Christ's return and the assurance of their own resurrection by virtue of His atoning death and triumphant resurrection from the grave. This message of hope had to be shared. They were truly "one bread" and "one cup," even as they were one body (**1 Cor. 10:16-17**). Assembled together they could all eat that bread and drink that cup in remembrance of Christ (**1 Cor. 11:27-28**).

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