

THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT...WORSHIP

Does it really matter how we worship on the Lord's Day in the 21st century? The simple answer is that it matters as much now as it did in the first century. God has not changed His will (Jude 3). While contrasting the Old Testament Law with the New Testament Gospel the inspired writer reminded his readers of God's instructions to Moses as he received the Law. "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle; for See saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5). God doesn't arbitrarily give us instruction so that man can just do as he pleases.

Worship on the first day of the week was a gathering of the saints to honor God through 5 avenues of worship. (1) Prayer was the vital link between God and man. We often find the early church engaged in prayer (Acts 2:42). (2) Singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with melody in their hearts to the Lord was a time to praise God and encourage one another (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). (3) Preaching the gospel for instruction and correction was God's message to man in worship (2 Timothy 4:1-2; Acts 20:9). We honor God in worship by listening to His word and responding by obedience to that word.

(4) God designed the Lord's Supper (Communion) to be a weekly remembrance of our Lord's death until he comes again (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-26). (5) Giving to the Lord is an expression of our love for Him and our commitment to supporting the Lord's work (I Corinthians 16:1-2). Giving is to be a planned free-will offering as we have prospered (2 Corinthians 8:3). Worship as God designed it is a simple, meaningful giving of praise to our Maker. All of worship is for God's glory.

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