

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
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July 23, 2023

### **“The Christian’s Memorial: The Lord’s Supper”**

By Heath Rogers



We have memorials in our country. Statues are erected, historical sites are dedicated and maintained, certain days are set aside (such as Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day). These memorials are important. They help us remember an important person or event. If we don’t take the time to remember and reflect, we will forget the great things that have been done for us and the people who made these sacrifices.

God had memorials for Israel. As they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, God instructed Joshua to erect a memorial of stones taken from the river. This memorial was given for the purpose of teaching their children of the great things God had done in delivering them from Egypt and giving them the land (Josh. 4:21-24).

The Passover Feast, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles were established early in Israel’s history. They helped the tribes remain connected to one another and helped them remember the covenant promises they had made to God.

The Lord has given an important memorial to His church – the Lord’s Supper. This memorial was instituted by Jesus Himself on the night that He was betrayed.

**23** *“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

**25** *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

**26** *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”* (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

This memorial consists of two simple elements: **unleavened bread** and **fruit of the vine** (grape juice). Observing this memorial does not require us to make a pilgrimage to a specific location or use an ancient artifact. It requires two common things that can be found in most places in the world.

We know the Supper is observed with unleavened bread because this was the bread Jesus used when He instituted the Supper (Matt. 26:17). The accounts of the Lord’s Supper do not use the word “wine.” The term “fruit of the vine” is used to describe the contents of the cup (Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18). It is the contents of the cup that are important, not the cup itself.

Because it is a memorial, the elements serve as reminders. The bread is a reminder of the Lord’s body that was broken for us. The fruit of the vine is a reminder of the Lord’s blood.

As we partake of the bread, we are to think on and remember the pain the Lord experienced in His body as He suffered and died in our place. As we partake of the fruit of the vine, we are to remember the blood that was shed. Jesus shed His blood to inaugurate His covenant and to forgive the sins of mankind (Matt. 26:28). The sacrifice remembered in this memorial gives us our greatest blessing. Without His suffering and death, we would be outside of fellowship with God and without any hope for eternity.

When are we to observe this memorial? The pattern set forth in the New Testament is that disciples met together on the first day of the week to observe this memorial in their worship. “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).

Because every week has a first day, we understand the church in the New Testament observed the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week. This is the authorized pattern we must follow today. Some reject this conclusion, reasoning that a weekly observance makes the Lord’s Supper routine and strips it of its meaning and importance. The same wording is used regarding the taking up of a collection.

*"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (1 Cor. 16:1-2). I have never heard of a church that does not take up a collection every Sunday.*

The Children of Israel were commanded to observe the Sabbath Day and to keep it holy (Ex. 20:8-11). None of them asked, "Which Sabbath Day?" None of them argued that frequency would lessen the meaning of the observance. They understood from the language that God meant *every* Sabbath Day. The same is true regarding the frequency of the Lord's Supper – every first day of the week.

The Lord's Supper is not a church tradition invented by men. It is a command of Christ. It is a memorial of the greatest sacrifice ever made on our behalf. It is an activity that connects us with our Savior on the night He was betrayed. It is a means of professing our faith and communing with our Lord and our brethren. Let us commit ourselves to observing this memorial in the proper manner.

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## **"HOW MANY ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN?"**

by Erin Percell

On a map you can see many roads into any major city. You can pick whatever route suits you. Many people think the same thing about variety among churches. "We're all on different roads to the same place," they say. Can such a thing be so?

Do you believe we can follow different roads? What does the Bible say about it? The Bible speaks of only two roads. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said: *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."* Yes, there are different roads, but only one goes to Heaven, and it is narrow.

In John 4, when the woman at the well met Jesus, she immediately pointed out that her people worshipped differently from His (John 4:19-20). Jesus did not reply that both roads led to the same place. He said that one road was right and the other was wrong (John 4:22), and that if she wished to please God, her worship must be "in truth" (John 4:24)

In Acts 15:1-31 the apostles disputed with some who believed in Jesus, but taught error about what one must do to be saved. Instead of concluding that there were different roads, they gave notice to the churches that one road was right and the other was wrong.

The idea of "different roads" is used to avoid discussing different religious teachings and practices. After all, does doctrine really matter if your attitude is right? Indeed it does. The Bible says there are doctrines that God hates (Revelation 2:15), and that some doctrines are of demons (I Timothy 4:1). Taking heed to doctrines necessary for salvation (I Timothy 4:16, II John 9), because obedience to god's "form of doctrine" is what makes one free from sin (Romans 6:17-18). Even many who believe in Jesus are on the wrong road because they do not obey (Luke 6:456, Matthew 7:21-23)

Multiple roads result when men choose their own ways, but only God's way is right. The "different roads" philosophy has led churches to abandon the question of what is right, and instead accept a wide diversity of beliefs. But we should not be ashamed to say that some beliefs are right, and others are wrong, because that is what God says. *"There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."* (Proverbs 14:12).

If people are on different roads, they are not all headed for Heaven.

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**And Our Facebook Page.**

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Fred Johnson, Todd Bryan, Alton Bailey, Joe Shane, Bill Woodall, Mary Ann Holley, Anita Harris, and Larsen Plyler.  
The Family of Sharon Evans.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Nathan Meade  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *"Lessons From The Tower Of Babel"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Jerry Kennemur  
1 & 2 Thessalonians  
**Author:** Mark Mayberry  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page # 17, Definitions #1*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Fred Johnson  
**Scripture Reading:** *John 4:19-24*  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Paul Busby  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** *"Worship That God Seeks"*  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Johnson

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**July 26, 2023**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
**Workbook:** Ezekiel  
**Author:** Dan King  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #63, Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Brian Meade  
**Closing Prayer:** Doug George

# ***“Lessons From The Tower Of Babel”***

Lesson Text: **Genesis 11:1-9.**

## **I. Man’s Plans Versus God’s Plans.**

- **Vs. 1-5.** Their Plan To Stay Together And Build A Great City And Tower....
- This Plan Involved Ingenuity And Great Work- **vs. 3.**
- This Plan Was Motivated to “Make A Name” For Themselves- **vs. 4.**
- But This Plan Was In Rebellion To God’s Plan!
  - **Genesis 1:28; 9:1 & 7.**
- God Gives Man Free-Will To Make Decisions, Even Wrong Ones!
- We Become Far From God- **Isaiah 55:8-9.**
- David Planned Without God’s Permission- **1 Chronicles 28:2.**

## **II. Unity In Wrong Things Is Not God’s Desire.**

- **Vs. 1-4.**
- God Commends Unity Among People In Good Things:
  - **Psalms 133:1; John 17:23; Ephesians 4:3.**
- **Vs. 6.** God Saw What They May Accomplish In Opposition To His Will.
- But When Men Are Doing Wrong....
  - **Exodus 23:2.**
  - **1 Corinthians 11:19.**
- God Would Have Been Pleased If Men Broke Away From The Work...

## **III. If God Is Not In The Work, It Will Not Prosper.**

- **Vs. 5.**
- **Proverbs 19:21; 127:1.**
- How Do We Know That God Is In The Work?
  - What Happened On Pentecost Is Opposite Of Babel- **Acts 2:1-12.**
  - The Early Church- **Acts 2:42-47; 4:32; 5:12-14; vs. 38-39.**
  - A Far Cry From **Genesis 11:1-9!**
- Why Babylon Is A Symbol For Those In Opposition To God- **Revelation 17:5-6.**

## **IV. Pride And Recognition Is No Real Motive.**

- **Vs. 4.**
- **Proverbs 16:18; 29:23; Daniel 4:28-33.**
- Why We Must Always Examine Our Motives For Our Service To God:
  - **Matthew 23:5-7.**

## **V. In The End, God’s Will Was Done.**

- **Vs. 7-9.**
- We Must Learn the Lesson Of God’s Plans Will Prevail- **Psalms 33:10-12.**

# **“Worship That God Seeks”**

Lesson Text: **John 4:19-24.**

## **I. Worship That Is Directed To God And For God.**

- **John 4:23.**
- We are Not The Audience In Worship! It Is Ultimately To God & For God’s Glory!
- Our Singing- **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.**
  - Not To Become Entertainment Or What Pleases Us— Backwards.
- Our Preaching- **Acts 20:7-10.**
  - The Focus Was Not On Paul, But God’s Word- **Acts 20:19-38.**
  - A Far Cry From Men Who Exalt Themselves- **Matthew 23:5-12.**
- We Should Never Forget Who We Are Pleasing In Worship:
  - Do We Grade Our Worship Based On How Everyone Performed?
  - Did The Song leader Do The Best Job Ever? Sing All My Favorite Songs?
  - How Good The Sermon Was? How Inspiring? Or It Didn’t Apply To Me?

## **II. Worship That Follows God’s Instructions.**

- **John 4:24.**
- God Has Always Had A Prescribed Worship:
  - **Genesis 4:2-6; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12.**
  - **Exodus 12:1-20.**
  - **Leviticus 10:1-3.**
  - **Acts 2:41-42.**
  - Preaching- **Acts 20:7.**
  - Singing- **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.**
  - The Lord’s Supper- **1 Corinthians 11:23-34.**
  - Giving- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2.**
  - Prayer- **1 Corinthians 14:16.**
- God’s Instructions Leave Out All Traditions And Additions Made By Man.
  - **1 Kings 12:32-33; Matthew 15:9; Colossians 3:17.**

## **III. Worship That Comes From The Heart.**

- **John 4:24.**
- God Wants Our Hearts In Our Worship:
  - **Psalms 86:12; Matthew 15:8.**
- We May Think That Worship From The Heart Is The Easiest Of The Three...
- But Because Of Weariness, Boredom, Or Apathy.... We May Not Worship Correctly.
  - **Malachi 1:6-14.**
  - Can That Happen To Us Today?
  - How Can We Prevent This From Happening To Us?