

The Oologah Informer

April 23rd, 2017

Should We Sing During the Lord's Supper

From the "Truth for the World" Website
Part 1 of 2

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

He is Mighty (**Mk 7:31-37**)

PM Sermon

Traditions

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Character Studies – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts – V. Smith

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Media Network

Visit www.biblewaymedia.org for more info.

There is a growing trend for Christians to leave the old paths and worship in such a way that is more emotionally satisfying to members and visitors. Opinions on the subject differ all the way from we cannot change anything ever to we must change everything now. One example is the desire for the congregations to sing while partaking of the Lord's Supper. Is this acceptable to God? Elders must decide on the issue by looking into God's revealed truth. Many say that since the Bible does not say we cannot do it then we are free to do as we wish. Is this true?

The worship of the Lord's church is governed by the principles taught in the New Testament. Jesus Himself established the basis for our offerings to God by noting that God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24). This means that our worship must be offered with the right heart, motive and intent, and it must be based on love (I Corinthians 13:1-8) according to His Word as Truth (John 17:17). If we truly love God, we will keep His commands (John 14:15) and recognize that since our worship is directed to God, He alone has the right to specify what is acceptable in His sight.

This principle has been true from the beginning of creation. By faith (Hebrews 11:4), Abel brought to God an acceptable offering of the firstborn of his flock (Genesis 4:4) and was called righteous (I John 3:12). In contrast, Cain offered from the fruit of the ground (Genesis 4:3) for which God had no respect (Genesis 4:5). In so doing, Cain's actions were called evil (I John 3:12). The difference between these two offerings is the fact that one was chosen according to the will of God. The other was chosen according to the desire of man. Since whatever does not come from faith is sin (Romans 14:23), and faith comes from hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17), we conclude that our worship must be offered in faith according to what God has authorized. Nadab and Abihu failed to recognize this important fact in offering profane fire before the Lord, which God had not commanded, and it cost them their lives (Leviticus 10:2). Why? By not offering what God had said and choosing instead to follow their own desires, these men dishonored God and did not treat Him as Holy (Leviticus 10:3). These examples teach us two principles. First, we always must submit to God, accepting that His thoughts and ways are not the same as ours (Isaiah 55:8) and second, whatever we do in word or deed should be by the authority of God (Colossians 3:17).

Having established the proper considerations for our worship, how do we determine whether singing in the assembly during the Lord's

Supper is authorized by God? The truth can be found in Scripture in different ways. One, we can look for instructions through the teachings of Jesus or from the inspired writers of the New Testament. Two, we can follow the examples of worship conducted under the leadership of the Apostles in the faithful, first century church. And third, we can examine corrective teaching where the Apostles have identified and addressed problems in the worship assembly to see what and why certain practices are unacceptable. From these, we gain valuable spiritual insight that can be applied to our worship today. If we are committed to applying the principles learned from this approach, we avoid the sins of selfish pride and are assured of properly honoring God.

Teachings on the Lord's Supper are plentiful. It was instituted by Jesus (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20) in memory of the sacrifice that was being made on behalf of all men under the New Covenant (Luke 22:19-20). The unleavened bread and fruit of the vine represent the body and blood of Jesus. The importance of the Lord's Supper was made clear by the Apostle Paul who emphasized four distinct purposes for its observance. One, it is a communion (or sharing) in the body and blood of Jesus in which we who are many are one body (I Corinthians 10:16-17). Two, it is a memorial where we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (I Corinthians 11:24-25). Three, it is a proclamation whereby we profess to all the world the Lord's death until He comes again (I Corinthians 11:26). And four, it is a personal time of self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28) when Christians individually consider the price that was paid for their sins. To partake of the emblems as God intended, we must give due regard to all four aspects of the Lord's Supper. Anything less is to partake in an unworthy manner and to sin (I Corinthians 11:27).

Part 2 – Next Week