

The Terre Haute **Speaker**

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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Issues Concerning the Lord's Supper

The Day Issue

John Isaac Edwards

The following is taken from the weekly newsletter of the Family of God at Woodmont Hills, Nashville, TN (formerly known as the church of Christ):

“The challenge to be an available, helpful, and faithful church in a 21st-century urban setting is almost overwhelming! Question: How do we meet so many needs? Such diverse needs? Such ever-changing needs? Answer: We don't know - and are driven to rely on God to open and close doors of opportunity for us. We don't know - and must explore creative options.

If the Lord tarries until the spring of 2004, we plan to offer a Saturday-night worship assembly beginning January 10. The service will run from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. It will be programmed like the three that will follow on Sunday morning - same themes, biblical texts, music, etc. And it will help meet needs we are not addressing well in our present arrangement.

Several of our key volunteers in both teen and children's ministry, for example, are too frequently unable to make it to the Great Hall for worship on Sunday mornings. The reason is not a lack of desire on their part but such heavy involvement with the needs of both groups and individuals under their charge that they simply use up the entire morning in ministry! We want

these servants to have the nurture, encouragement, and fellowship that comes of a solid worship experience.

We also have a number of individuals (e.g., physicians, nurses, etc.) who are required to work occasional 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. shifts on Sundays and simply cannot be present. We also suspect this service will have outreach possibilities to persons who presently do not attend Christian assemblies at all and who could be introduced to a faith community through such a service.

Our first run-throughs for such an assembly will be on November 22 and December 20. These two dates will allow us to work out some of the logistics for the new service before starting it on a regular basis in January. We will meet in Room 205. No child care or classes for children will be provided.

Novel idea? Not really, for several churches in urban settings have had success with Saturday-night worship. Not really, for at least some Gentile churches of the first century appear to have met on Saturday nights as well - perhaps because slavery made night assemblies more practical than daylight events.

This new option will not affect the vast majority of you. If it does meet your need or that

of someone you know, however, please give it a try. And please pray for God to bless this experiment with his favor” (*LoveLines, Vol. 29, Num 45, Nov. 5, 2003*).

In explanation of this “experiment,” it was said, “...our intention is to extend rather than reduce the concept of Lord’s Day devotion. With the Saturday-evening assembly, our intent and heart’s desire is to extend the concept of the Lord’s Day from 24 hours to 36 hours rather than truncating or diminishing it” (*The Lord’s Day, Rubel Shelly*).

A few years ago, the Roman Catholic Church introduced Saturday evening Mass on the basis, “What’s a few hours?” Now, there are so called churches of Christ offering the Lord’s supper on Saturday evening.

Questions: (1) Where is the Scripture for this? Does anyone have a Scripture for Saturday evening communion? If so, where is the book, chapter and verse? _____

(2) Can we set aside New Testament teaching to cater to the wishes of men? Reasons offered for Saturday evening communion include meeting the needs of folks working on Sunday who are unable to be present and also to reach out to the non-attending. If we can do this with

the Lord’s supper, what about Bible teaching on other subjects?

The First Day of the Week. The New Testament says, “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” (Acts 20:7). When did the disciples come together to break bread? Upon the first day of the week - the same day disciples were taught to “let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him” (1 Corinthians 16:2). There is no option given anywhere in the Scriptures for an observance of the Lord’s supper on any day other than the first day of the week!

Remember Jeroboam? Jeroboam, king of Israel, led the Lord’s people into sin by making changes to the Lord’s pattern of worship, including the time of worship (1 Kings 12:26-33). God said, “The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord” (Leviticus 23:34). Jeroboam “offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart...” (1 Kings 12:33).

Let’s reject modern day Jeroboams and their self-devised changes to worship and hold fast the divine pattern of things!

The Terre Haute Speaker is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

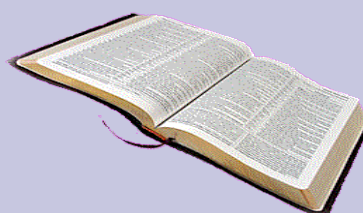
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
2645 S Joe Fox St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
(Exit 11, I-70 & SR 46)

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com



Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



***The Bible
Is Our
Only Guide!***