

DISCIPLES ASSEMBLED, WHEN, WHY, HOW OFTEN

Ac.2:42

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Faithfulness in attendance among disciples in support of the work and worship of the local church has been and continues to be a problem, a hindrance to the cause of Christ in most if not in all places.
2. Some disciples seem to practice assembling with the saints in the local church:
 - a. Once in awhile only if the notion strikes them.
 - b. At the Lord's Supper assembly only; they are what has been referred to as "oncers".
 - c. If an when their job permits – maybe once a month or so!
3. Some have been known to defend such practices by saying such things as, "You just show me from the Bible where I must attend except once on Sunday!" Or, "After all, I have to work!" etc., etc., etc.
 - a. With that attitude, it is difficult to show them anything!
4. But our present study is designed to try to do just that by showing from the N.T. Scriptures:
 - a. When the disciples assembled.
 - b. Why the disciples assembled – that there were various reasons for their assemblies.
 - c. How often disciples assembled.
5. In view of this, consider the N.T. evidence with me. I appeal to you!

II. DISCUSSION

- A. For emphasis as to WHEN and WHY and HOW OFTEN N.T. disciples assembled, we remind you of the guiding principle laid down in Ac.2:42. Cf. Mt.16:18; 18:18.
- B. According to Ac.20:7 N.T. disciples assembled on the 1st day of the week to observe the Lord's Supper.
 1. Cf. 1Cor.11:23-31.
 2. See also Mt.26:26-30; Mk.14:22-26; Lk.22:19,20, observing that Jesus "gave thanks" for the bread and the fruit of the vine. (Emphasize this)

- C. According to 1Cor.16:1,2 N.T. disciples assembled on the 1st day of the week to lay by in store (or give of their means) as God had prospered them.
(Note: These 1st two are specified and limited as to WHAT and as to TIME when and how often they are to be done.
The following, pertain to assemblies of a different nature as to purpose, time, when, how often, etc.)
- D. According to Ac.6:1-7 N.T. disciples assembled to be instructed and to formulate plans of benevolence for the needy widows among them to be taken into the number. Cf. 1Tim.5:3-16.
- E. According to Ac.11:27-30 N.T. disciples assembled to learn of and make plans to provide benevolence for needy saints in places other than at home. Cf. 1Cor.16:1-3; 2Cor.8; 2Cor.9; Rom.15:24-29 for information on the same kind of work but at a different time and on a broader scope.
- F. According to various N.T. texts N.T. disciples assembled to plan and to execute plans to send forth preachers for evangelistic work in distant places, Ac.11:22-26; Phil.1:3-5; 4:10-16; 2Cor.11:8,9.
- G. According to Ac.14:25-27 N.T. disciples even assembled to learn of the success of the evangelistic work performed in distant places.
- H. According to Ac.12:11-17 N.T. disciples assembled for prayer meetings.
- I. According to various N.T. passages N.T. disciples assembled for edification purposes, Ac.20:28-32; 1Pet.5:1,2; 1Th.5:11-14; Heb.13:17; Eph.4:11-16.
- J. According to Eph.5:19,20 and Col.3:16 N.T. disciples assembled for worship services which included teaching, praying and worship in song.
- K. According to 1Cor.5:1-13; 2Th.3:6-15; Mt.18:15-17 N.T. disciples assembled to exercise discipline upon those among them who were walking disorderly.
- L. According to Ac.15 N.T. disciples assembled to answer, expose and rebuke false teachers among them.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Does this convince you that N.T. disciples in performing the work of the local church – the work of evangelism, edification and benevolence – were required to assemble for purposes other than to eat the Lord's Supper and to lay by in store on the 1st day of the week?
2. Can you not see that they were required to and did practice assembling at different times and for a variety of purposes? Now think of Heb.10:23-25.
3. The local church made up of the saved joined together for work and worship according to the N.T. pattern is God's one and only functioning organization to do his work here on earth – his work of reaching the lost with the gospel of Christ, and of edifying the saved with the word of God.
4. If we as a local group of saints – this local church – do not do it, whom do you think God holds responsible?
5. If some of the local church do and others do not, are those who do not excused of their duty before God simply because someone else does the work?
6. All of us face the judgment! Remember 2Cor.5:10; Jno.12:48-50; Eccl.12:13,14.