

Acts 20:7-12

7 On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. 9 A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." 11 Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. 12 Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

The Last Supper takes place during a time of crisis when there is a plot to kill Jesus and he is betrayed by one of his own disciples. Jesus announced that he desired to eat with them and commune with them while he has expectations of his own suffering and glorious return to heaven. His words transformed the disciples. Now we live out his memory with his act of divine love secured in the heart of Christian worship.

The Scripture reveals the formation of the church and shows us where the practice of worshiping on Sunday originated. When they met on the 1st day of the week it was for a significant reason. They met on Sunday to break bread. People ask "Why do you serve communion every week?" The real question is "Why is it that you do not?" The Bible reveals to us that they met weekly to break bread. Throughout history people implement their own preferences into religion and the modern church slips further away from being the church that Jesus built and most people practice a faith that is much different from the original faith practices that Jesus originally established.

Acts is a continuation of Luke. It is a historical book about the early followers as they were led by the Holy Spirit. The information in Acts chapter 20 takes place during Paul's 3rd missionary journey. He left Athens which was intellectually stimulating but challenging due to the influence of philosophy. Paul went to the bad city of Corinth and got into a legal conflict with Jews. Their claim was that his religion was not recognized by Roman law. Then he traveled to the high crime city of Ephesus.

The Scripture takes place in Troas where the Apostle Paul spoke until midnight. A man fell to the ground from the third story and died and Paul bought him back to life. This event pulls attention away from noticing that they met for the specific purpose of breaking bread together. The Bible reveals to us the significance of breaking bread. We see in the middle of all the activity, teaching, and healing, that they broke bread and continued with the teaching.

The Scripture reveals the beginnings of Christian church services. They got together on Sunday because Saturday was the Sabbath and they went to the temple for worship services. The Christian experience is special and evolved from temple worship. They got together to break bread together. There are four pillars of faith in the formation of the Christian Church – breaking bread, prayer, teaching the word, and fellowship. The Church is founded upon the life of Jesus, his teaching, and his sacrifice. Jesus instructed the disciples to do this and the disciples carried forward the legacy of Jesus by getting together on the first day of the week to break bread together. The meal that Jesus shared with the disciples created mystery and hope for the

disciples. The words of Jesus have so much power that this single moment of life is reenacted. It touched the heart of all by expressing the power of Jesus over life and death. Sharing meal is an act of friendship and trust. People shared a meal together to seal important events such as contracts, alliances, and marriages. Eating and drinking together is a sign of intimate friendship. The Apostle Paul instructed the early church to honor the story of the Last Supper and provides us with insight into how the tradition was handed down.

It is important for us to understand the significance of the occasion. Luke records Jesus' statement that the cup that is poured out is for you. It is the New Covenant in his blood. It is sacred, and secured with his blood. The New Covenant is based on love; the Old Covenant is based on the law. The New Covenant is sealed with the blood of the Lord. Communion is connected to the blood sacrifice of Jesus and supports the New Covenant. Communion is significant in that it seals the covenant. When the disciples met, they met to break bread due to the significance of how it connects everything together. It is not just something that you do. It is not just a tradition. It holds a theological significance. This sacred act unites all around the sacrifice of Christ. Sunday is when the early church chose to meet together to celebrate the risen, ascended, glorified Savior, and to break bread together as Jesus instructs us all to do. Meeting together to break bread together was a very important time of Christian fellowship. They got together and broke bread together in remembrance of Jesus. It is a very important way to remember Jesus and it is a vital part of the worship experience. Today, as life grows darker, it is more important than ever to get close to Jesus. It is a vital part of Christian fellowship and witness. The more our faith develops, the more important it is for each of us to honor Jesus with our appreciation by honoring his memory with our participation in this sacred act.

Today we join with world to celebrate the Lord's Supper and remember the enormous sacrifice our Savior made for us. May Jesus be worshipped and glorified every day of the week in our continuous praise for his sacrifice.