

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42

Store In My Heart

Jude 1:20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

If you follow this column you probably thought I would choose verse 3 for this epistle. While that certainly would be appropriate, I feel that this verse actually gets more to the point of what Jude is teaching us. This letter warns of those who would turn us from the faith by sneaking in among us and trying to destroy our faith in Jesus.

If we follow the instruction in the above verses we will be able to recognize such agents of satan and keep our self focused on God. Build up your faith by staying in the Word and prayer. In doing so we will remain in God's love and His mercy will bring us to salvation.

I Ain't Got No Hugs, But I Will Be At Worship On The Lord's Day

Dan Henderson

I entered the meeting house last Sunday with the proclamation that I had hugs if anybody wanted them. Of course, I was saying it mainly to one of my favorite people to "get her goat" as the old saying goes. Caution has been the watch word for the last week or so and many are telling us to be even more cautious now. I know of many who are practicing social distancing by staying home from everything. Some have not been away from their home for a week or more. Schools are closed across the nation. Dining in at restaurants is scarce, even forbidden in some places. Yet, the Walmart parking lot seems almost as full as ever and I understand other stores are also crowded. More important to me, there are brethren from all over urging us to (temporarily) stop gathering for worship on the Lord's Day. Some who, just a few years ago, were frowning on reports of one communing in the Lord's Supper with a congregation here in the States while overseas via the internet now seem to be embracing a similar practice for their entire congregation.

As in all things we will have extremes in the reaction to this "present distress." Some will move forward as if nothing is happening, while others will seal their doors and windows and wear a hazmat suit for the next few weeks. This happens in almost every case of unusual situations. As we have been studying in our Sunday class, many reacted to the abuses of the Catholic church hierarchy by saying man had no choice in the matter of salvation and God had already chosen the specific few who would be saved. In almost every case, such extremes were shown to be unwise as events unfolded and careful study was given to the matter. Though I mention such extremes they are not really what I am worried about. Most of the time such things will be shown for what they are, extreme reactions that do not really help in the long run.



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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is doing better after a medication change.

Dottie Henderson is doing much better this week. She seems to have less fluid buildup after a medicine change on Monday.

The LaVallas are out of town this weekend.

Several families are isolating due to the virus concern. Lets make extra effort to keep in touch during this present distress.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

I am concerned with the authority for taking any action. For about 25 years I have preached that the Apostles instruct us to assemble on the Lord's Day for corporate worship. They came *"together in one place"* to sing, teach, pray, fellowship, and commune with the Lord in remembrance of His death. (**1Corinthians 11:20** NKJV) **Acts 20:7** has been quoted as one of the places where we get the authority for such assemblies taking place each Lord's Day.

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. Acts 20:7

One of the points made in establishing this authority has been that every week has a first day, thus we should meet every week. There is no qualifying in this verse that would indicate it was a 'special' first day. In fact the context seems to indicate that Paul and his party remained in Troas to meet with these brethren because they knew such a gathering would take place. Also of note in this verse is the reason for the gathering, "to break bread". This has often been used to try to help our denominational friends to see the need to commune with our Lord in remembrance on a weekly basis. Do we suddenly see a different context in this verse? Is there something here or elsewhere in Scripture that would indicate we have been wrong all these years? If so, I have yet to find it and have not seen evidence that anyone else has found it either.

My concern has nothing to do with recognition that those who are sick should stay home and often one must remain to care for them. I can even see where this would mean an entire family might decide to remain home because of fear of spreading disease in current circumstances. What I cannot understand is leaders deciding that they will cancel worship services on the Lord's Day so that no one in that congregation can attend even if they offend their conscience by such action. Are we really leading our brethren in the right direction by such action?

I love my brethren and they will each do what they think is best for their situation and family. I will support them in that and I hope they have given prayerful consideration to what God desires in this situation. I will try not to second guess anyone's decision, but I may ask questions so that I can learn and grow in order to make certain of easier decisions later.

So once again, I will be at the regular meeting place where I live to assemble with saints for the purpose of worship of our God. I won't be offering any hugs, though. At least for a few weeks. Its not because I am scared of contact, but I am not sure how you feel and a few weeks without a hug will make the next one even better. Study God's Word with diligence.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!