

A REVIEW OF PHILIP E. CHUMBLEY'S BOOK "MUST WE EAT TOGETHER"

In **1 Corinthians 16: 1-3**

Chumbley rightly says in his introduction that the Lord's Supper commemorates the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Chumbley uses **2 Timothy 3:16-17** where Paul says,*

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

He says that because of what this passage teaches we must be able to determine from Scripture the manner in which we are to partake of the Lord's Supper. I agree.

Chumbley persists in saying that requiring eating together violates the pattern of New Testament worship.

Let us see if that is true.

In **1 Corinthians 11:21-22**, Paul tells us this.

"For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise (or show contempt toward) the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you."

Paul here is condemning them for abusing the Lord's Supper and making it a common meal. The observance was to remember His death and resurrection.

*Chumbley makes the argument that nowhere in Scripture teaches that we are to eat together. In **Acts 20:7**, Luke says,*

"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread:

So, we see disciples coming together. To do what? Partake of communion, or eat the Lord's Supper. That was the purpose of coming together - to eat the Lord's Supper.

Chumbley states that (1) teaching/preaching, (2) praying, (3) singing, (4) giving are individual. And that being so, (5) the Lord's Supper is individual, stating that ET (those believing we must eat together) makes this not an individual act of worship.

He totally misses the point Yes individuals should take part in these five acts of worship.

PREACHING/TEACHING is not individual in this respect. In **Romans 10:17** Paul says,

"So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God:

The point is, if one teaches or preaches and no one is present to hear, what then? What did it accomplish?

SINGING - yes, we can sing as individuals. But in worship we are to admonish one another, so we must be all together to do so.

In **Ephesians 5:19** Paul says.

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord."

How can we speak to one another or admonish one another if we are alone and no one else is there?

In **Colossians 3:16** Paul says,

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

How can we teach and admonish if no one is there to hear?

PRAYING is the same. Yes, we can pray individually, but in worship the one praying is praying on behalf of all who are present.

GIVING - yes, that is individual, but done collectively.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also. On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come, and when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

individuals give, yes, but give in the collectivity when saints come together as the church on the first day of the week.

All of these are either by (1) a direct command, (2) apostolic example, or (3) necessary inference.

Now last of all,

PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - yes, it is also done by each individual. Each individual does so, but according to Luke in Acts 20:7, "Now on the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread" (or eat the Lord's Supper) and Paul in **1 Corinthians 11 :33**, Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another."

These passages either command, or are an approved example or are necessarily inferred that when we come together as saints (which are the saved, which is the church) to partake of the Lord's Supper, we are to wait on one another. Why wait? Paul, an apostle commanded it so you can partake of the Lord's Supper as the church, not partake at different times or different places, but together in one place.

*Chumbley is the one who has built his belief on fallacies and abuses of grammar. He has completely twisted and perverted **Acts 20:7** and **1 Corinthians 11:17-33**. He has not backed up anything he claims with even one passage of Scripture. He has only attempted to twist and pervert. And to answer his question is it taught in Scripture that we are to partake of the Lord's supper collectively, absolutely YES!*

In **Acts 20:7** and **1 Corinthians 11:33**

Chumbley persists that nowhere does this indicate that we are to eat together.

I do not see how he misses this because according to Luke in Acts 20:7, this was the very reason that they did come together, that was to partake of the Lord's Supper.

In **1 Corinthians 11 :33**, if it was not to partake or eat the Lord's Supper together, why did Paul insist that they wait on one another before they ate? When Paul scolded them, it was because they were making a common meal of the Lord's Supper. That was not the purpose. The purpose was to remember the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection. Otherwise, why did the Lord tell his disciples to eat the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of Him?

In **Luke 22:19-20** Luke records,

"and He took bread. gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

In **Matthew 26:26-29** Matthew records,

"And as they were eating Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, take, eat; this is My body. Then He took the cup and gave thanks. and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

What is the kingdom? The kingdom is the body. What is the body? The body is the church What makes up the church? The saints. Who are the saints? Those that are saved. Who are the saved?

In **Acts 2:41**

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about 3000 souls were added to them."

Who did the adding? The Lord.

In **Acts 2:47**

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

So, when the saved (saints) came together, they came together as what? The church. Then they did what? Ate the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20: 7** and **1 Corinthians 11 :33**).

*Chumbley has gone to great lengths to try to justify eating the Lord's Supper as individuals only, separate and apart from the saints coming together in one place to eat together, and has offered no Scripture to support his position. He even tries to say if we believe (as the Scripture teaches) that we are to partake together in one place on the first day of the week, then why don't we meet in an upper room because the disciples did that on occasion. The reason is that He did not specify that we should or we would. He specified the when and the how in what He said and His apostles said. On the first day of the week when we come together as the church, we are to partake in remembrance of Him (**Luke 22:19-20, Matthew 26:26-29, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:33**).*

Chumbley is reaching, trying to use Old Testament passages concerning things that Israel did, to say it is an insult to Christ for one to think that we should eat the Lord's Supper together instead of individually and separate from one another.

Maybe we eat the Lord's Supper together on the first day of the week because that is what is taught in **Acts 20:7** and **1 Corinthians 11:17-33**.

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