

The 2nd Commandment requires, by implication, that we worship God in the way that He has stated in the Bible, not in the way of our own desires, imaginations and contrivances.

Since this is the case, the following Elements of Worship have been given to us by God in the New Testament as something which we should observe and participate in: 2 this morning.

1. God has appointed a day of Worship on which He expects His people to come to church and worship Him. –

God, in New Testament times has appointed that He (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) be worshiped in churches of His saints who gather together on the 1st Day of the week. We do not read in the New Testament that the Early Church met for worship in the Jewish temple with other Jewish believers on the 7th day of the week. Rather they met on the 1st day of the week as this was the day that the Lord Jesus rose from the dead. He fulfilled all of the Old Testament Mosaic law, and in doing so He did not set aside any of the commandments of the moral law which included the Sabbath day observance. But the gathered worship of the New Testament Church was transferred to Sunday because the Lord Jesus had fulfilled the law, and had brought into being a New Creation and a New form of worship in His Church, for all of His New Covenant people to recognize, to observe, and to participate in. (We will go through this more in detail when we arrive at our study of the 4th commandment in our Sunday School class)

Matthew 5: 17-20 – “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.” “I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Acts Chapter 20, verse 7 – “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”

Here you see that the disciples at the church at Troas gathered regularly met on Sundays to “break bread”, that is they observed the Lord’s Supper. They were also accustomed to hear the Word of God preached to them. They even appear to have had an evening service taking place on this particular day. The conclusion that we can draw is that divine worship is to be regularly conducted on Sundays by the saints gathered, in a local church. There the ordinances of the preaching the Word and the Lord’s Supper are to be regularly conducted. These are two of the main activities of the worship of the church.

2. God expects all believers to regularly attend a church -

Those who knew the Lord committed themselves voluntarily to be there at the stated meetings of the church, knowing that it was the Lord who was adding them to the church.

Acts 2: 42 – “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Hebrews 10: 19-25 – “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

You can see here that those who became members of the church in Jerusalem continued steadfastly in coming to worship and fellowship with each other. These things were not engaged in sporadically but regularly, even daily in their case. In our case we should desire to attend all the stated meetings of the church and should make every effort to do so. We should certainly not leave off attending, or forsake the assembling of ourselves together. For God cannot give a reward to those who have done so in the Day of judgment; and the eternal soul of a person who does this may indeed be in jeopardy.