

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

I was surprised to learn that some churches closed today so people could stay at home and celebrate the holiday. In February, it has become a tradition for churches to not have Sunday evening services because of the Super Bowl. Churches have started catering to the whims of the carnally-minded people that compose those churches.

On the other hand, some other churches have extra services for the holidays. They make two mistakes. Firstly, they believe December 25 to be the birthday of Christ. Secondly, they practice things in their observances which the Lord did not authorize.

So we have two extremes at work today. Those who add to the word of God and do those things which God did not authorize us to do are at one extreme. Others are not even meeting on the first day of the week as the word of God shows us to do (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 4:16-17**). Even if they are meeting, most of them are not keeping the Lord's Supper as **Acts 20:7** shows us to do.

We are here today to remember the Lord's death. This is because this is what we learn from the New Testament scriptures, the word of Christ, as our only guide. The desires and dictates of sports enthusiasts, carnal family over spiritual family devotees, or misguided religious traditionalists are not the criteria for our schedule of services.

Our services today will be what they always are. Bible study, the Lord's Supper, fellowship in giving the contribution, prayer (**Acts 2:42**) and singing praise to God (**Acts 2:47**). This is what God told us to do to spiritually strengthen each other (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

We are glad you are here. We pray that our services are edifying. And we do have a very special guest today. His name is Jesus Christ (**Matthew 18:20**).