

Using the New Testament To Find Out What We Must Do

ST. MATTHEW 7

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14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 ¶ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather

IO

The New Testament

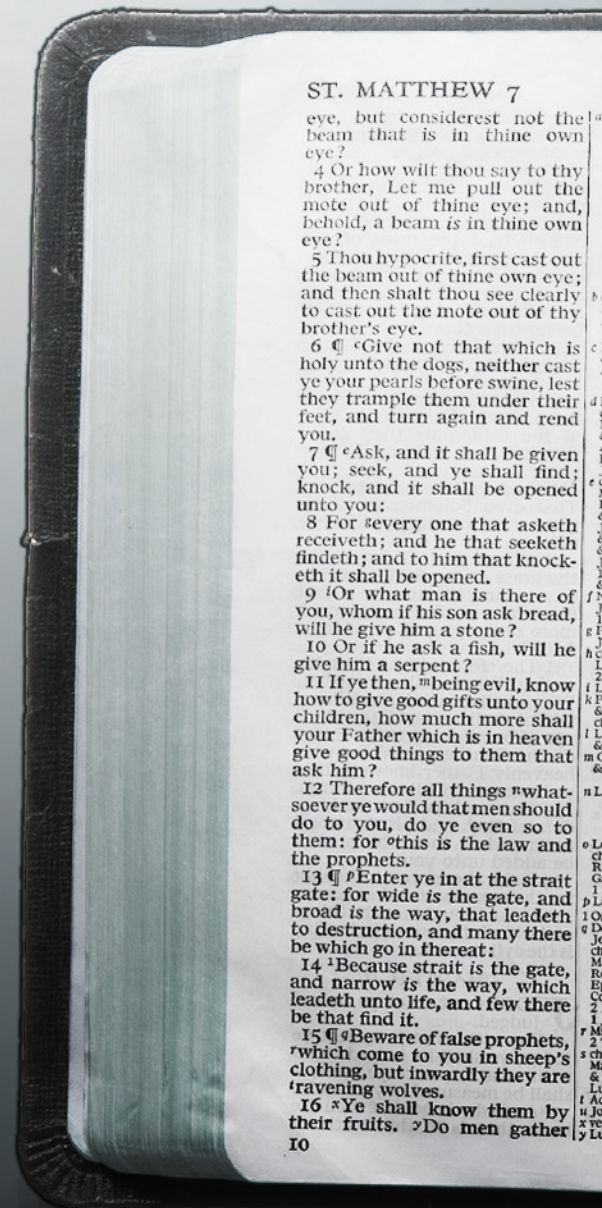
Four Books: The life of Jesus Christ

One book: History of spread of Gospel.

Eight books: Letters to specific 1st century churches – commendation, correction, information.

Four books: Letters to individual Christians in 1st century – informing and encouraging.

Ten books: Letters to churches in a region, or to Christians in general – commendation, correction, information.



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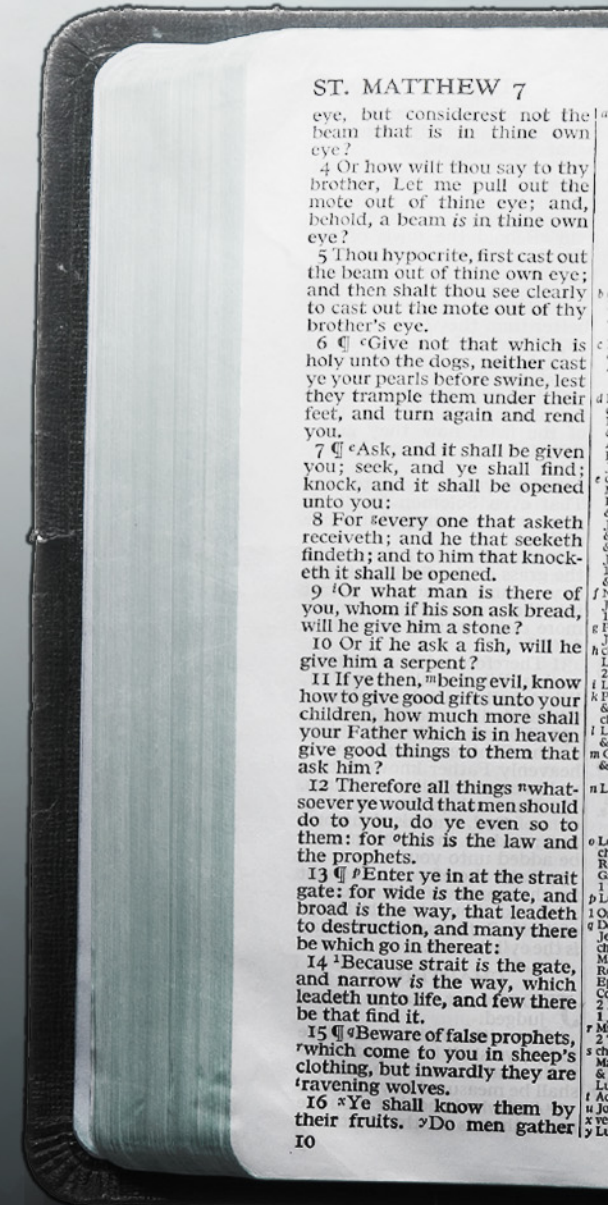
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Key to Using the New Testament:

What made a person a faithful Christian in the 1st century will make a person a faithful Christian in the 21st century.

What made a church faithful in the 1st century will make a church faithful in the 21st century.

Col. 4:16; Acts 2:39; Jude 3



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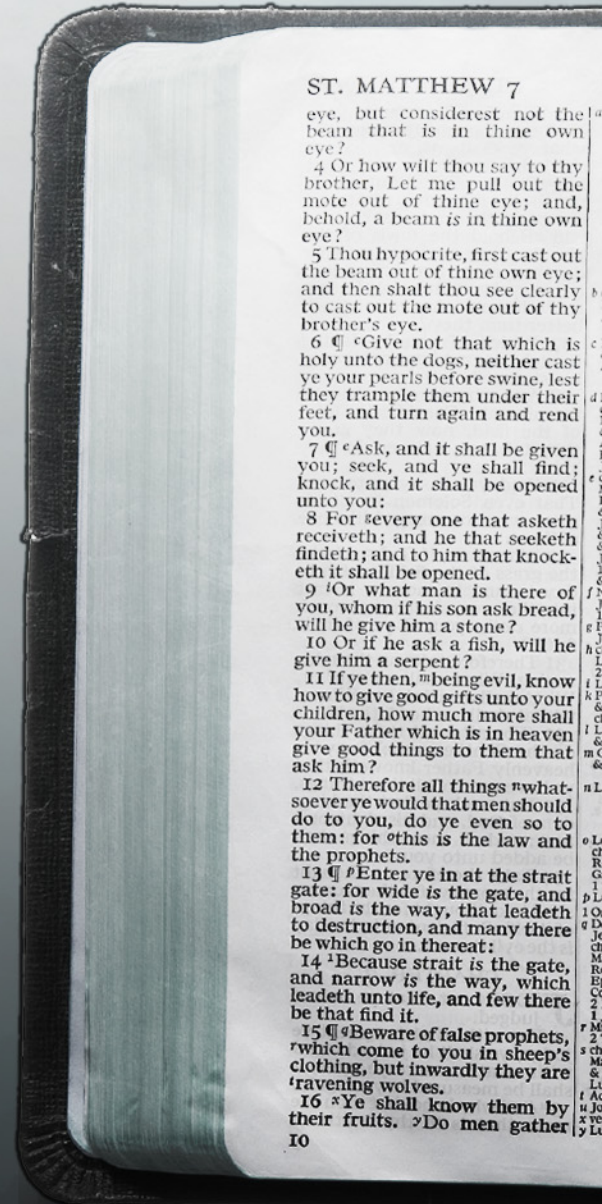
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Our Challenge:

Take these stories about people's lives in the 1st century and the commendations, corrections, and doctrinal truths presented, and learn what we need to do to be faithful Christians and a faithful church now.

Universal and timeless
COMMANDS

Universal and timeless
EXAMPLES



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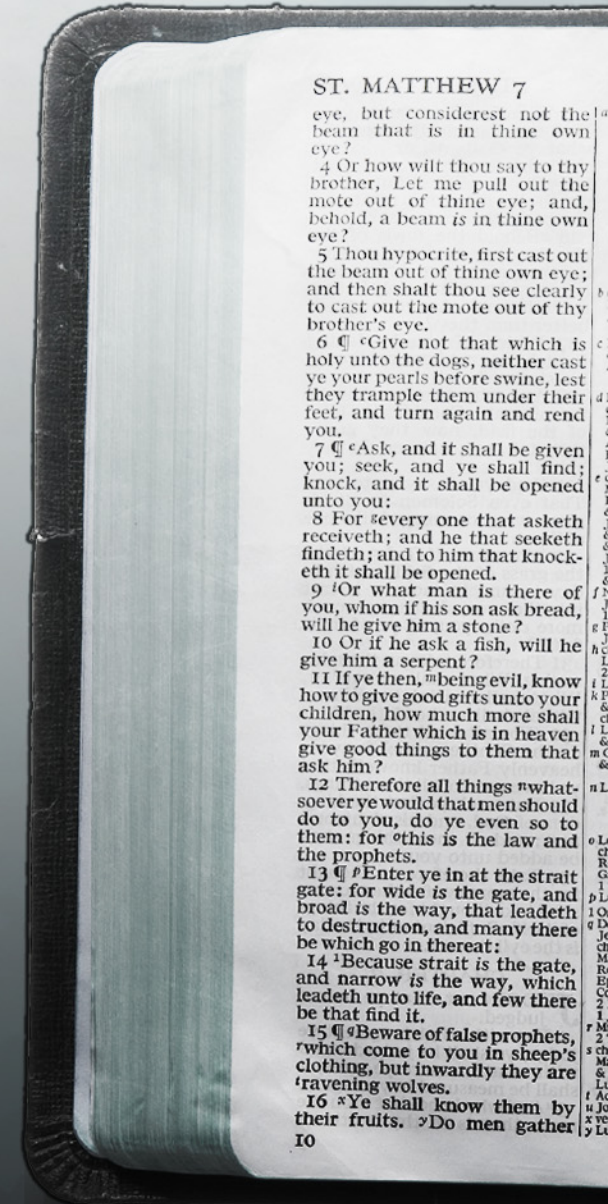
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Is it Universal and Timeless?

- Look at the context:
 - Who is being spoken to?
 - Any special circumstances?
- Consider other passages:
 - Any other truths about it?
- Use common sense:
 - What can be necessarily inferred from the passage?



Luke 24:49

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

➤ Who is being spoken to?

The apostles

➤ Special circumstances?

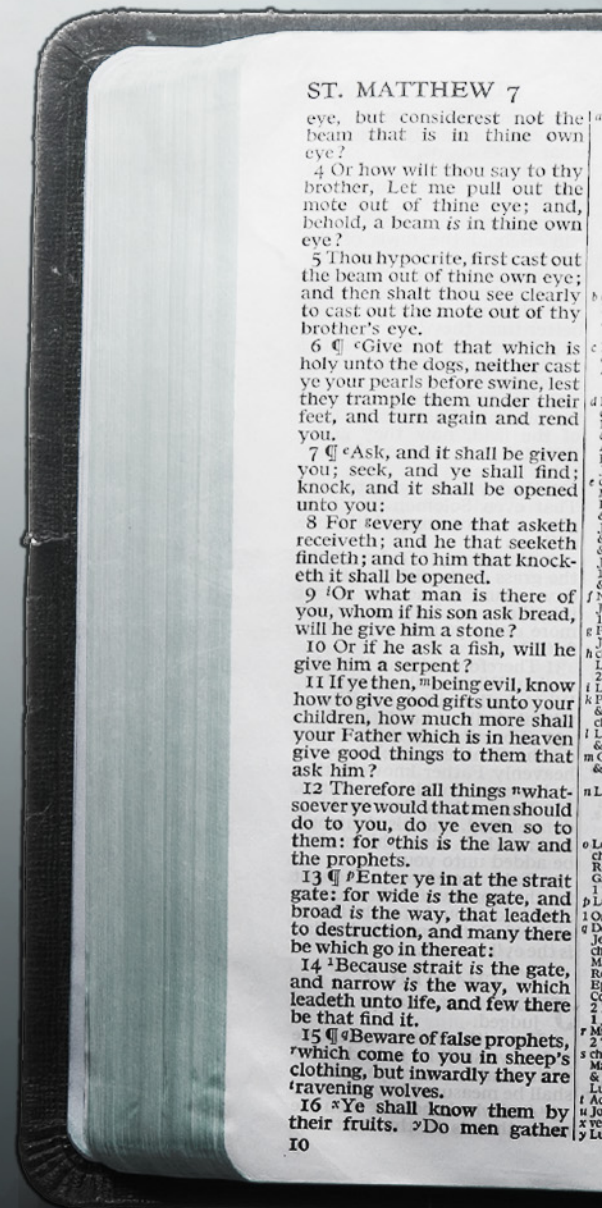
*Promise made to them
and no one else*

➤ Any other passages help?

Acts 1 & 2

➤ What can we conclude?

Do not book a flight to Jerusalem!



New Testament Commands

➤ Imperatives:

Direct expression of the will.

Acts 2:38

- Who is being spoken to?

Sinners who now believe in Jesus Christ.

- Special circumstances?

Perhaps their direct hand in crucifixion?

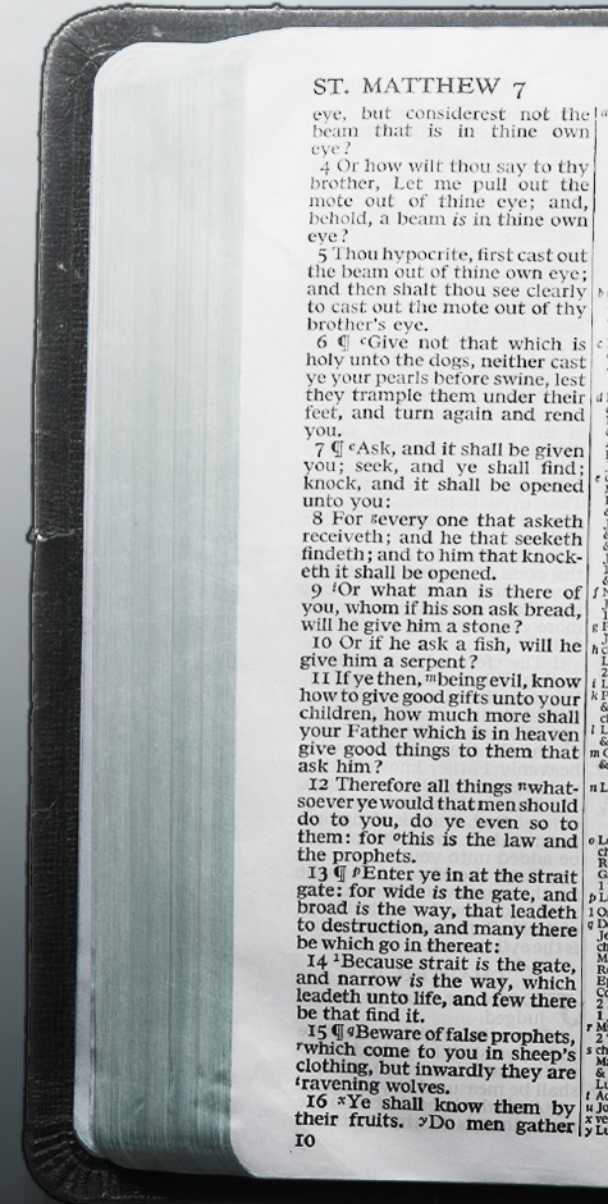
- Other passages that help clarify?

Mat. 28:19; 1 Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:39

- What common sense tells us?

A universal and timeless command.

Applicable to us!



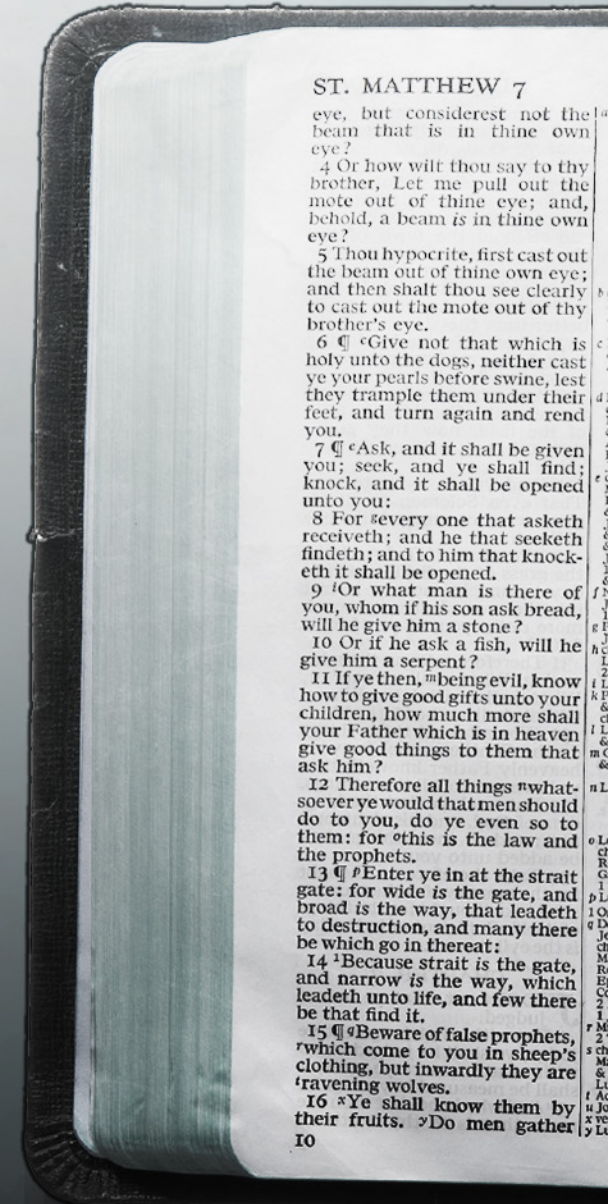
New Testament Commands

➤ Statements:

Indirect expression of a fact.

John 3:16

- Who is being spoken to?
Nicodemus, a Jewish leader.
- Special circumstances?
What anyone must do to see God's kingdom.
- Other passages that help clarify?
Mark 16:16; Heb. 11:6
- What common sense tells us?
A universal and timeless command.
Applicable to us!



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New Testament Examples

- Are they authoritative?

1 Pet. 2:21; Phil. 2:5 – Christ's example

1 Cor. 11:1 – Apostle Paul's example

1 Thes. 1:6-7 – Thessalonian church example

- The rule of precedent.

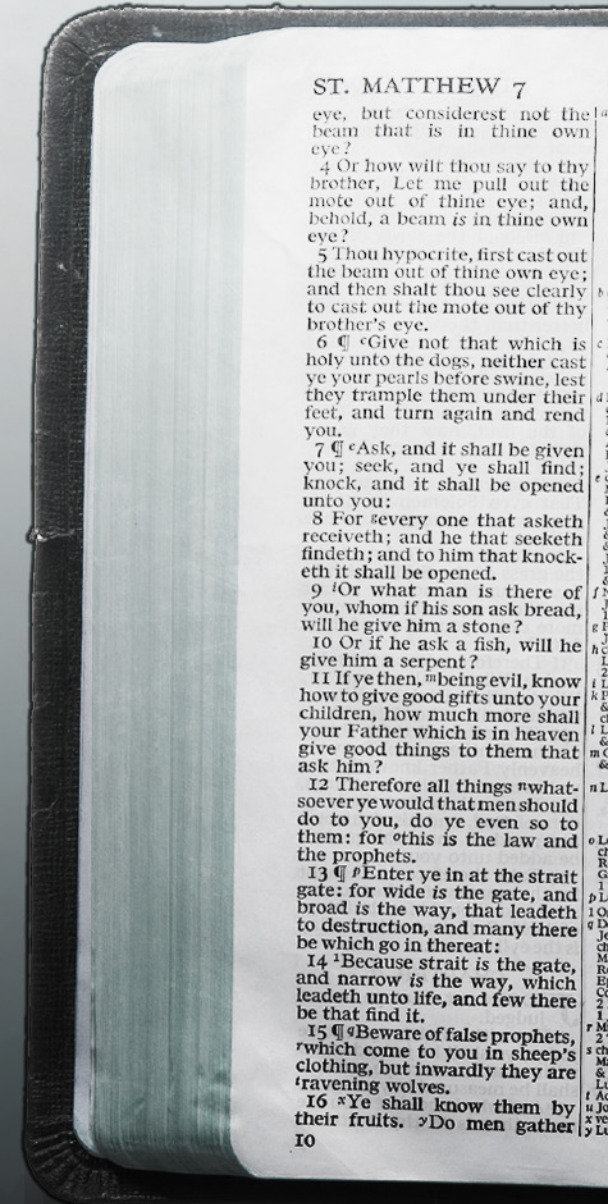
When something upheld by court of law becomes a precedent in cases that follow.

Phil. 2:5 – Jesus' humility.

Acts 5:27-29 – Obey God over man.

1 Cor. 9:26-27 – Discipline of the body.

Acts 20:7 – Lord's Supper on 1st day of week.



New Testament Examples

Acts 20:7 – Troas & Lord's Supper

- Who is being spoken about?

Church in Troas

- Special circumstances?

Seems to be Troas' established pattern.

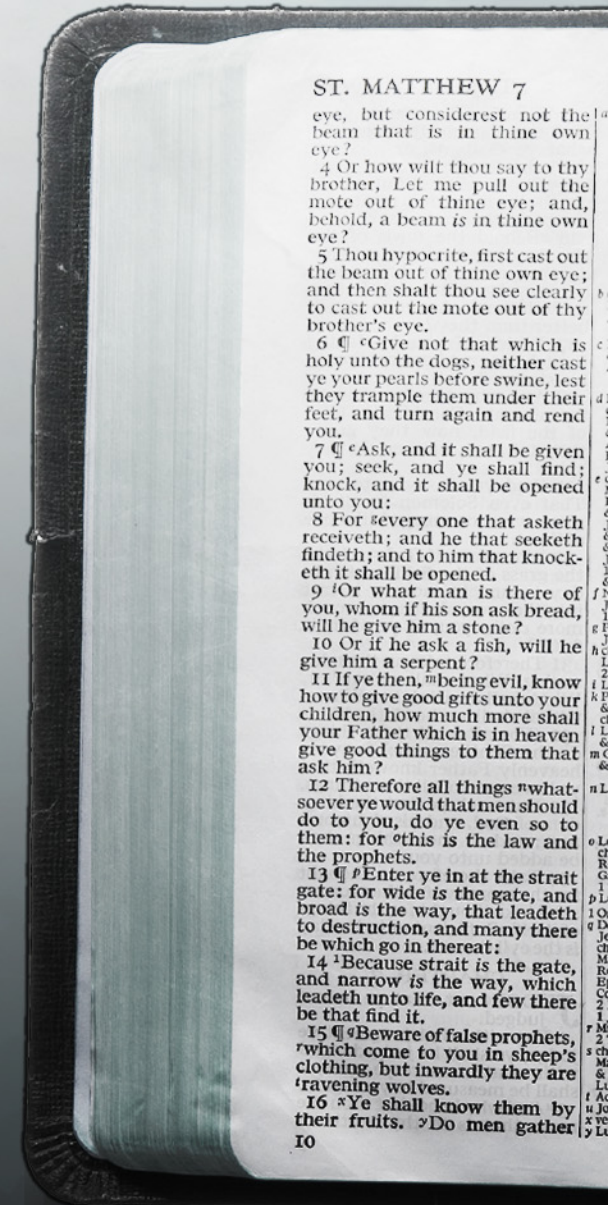
- Other passages that help clarify?

Mat. 28:26-29; Acts 2:42;

1 Cor. 11:20 ff; 1 Cor. 16:1-2

- What common sense tells us?

We are safely inside biblical precedent when we partake on 1st day of week.



1 John 3:24

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.”

Rev. 22:14

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

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