

## MESSAGE # 2: PRACTICAL AUTHORITY IN OUR GATHERING

Biblical Passages: 1 Corinthians 10:17 ff, 11:17 ff, et al

### I. Introducing the Subject:

*Having discussed the practical authority of the Word of God for our message or declaration, we come to the concepts of the authority of the word for our gathering(s). We are not given a great mass of material but what we are given is enough to direct us well in the concept of gathering and, you may not be surprised, it is easy for us to overlook or forget a good bit of it. This is not intended to be a censorious or argumentative series, however, and not one in which we try to blame one another...rather one to see the practical biblical instruction in many things and then prayerfully to honor that instruction. This talk deals with our gatherings and the practical guidance given us in the Scripture regarding them.*

### II. Discussion: Practically speaking the Scriptures teach that.....

- A. We should gather! 1 Corinthians 11:18 implies it, Hebrews 10:25 insists upon it and Acts 2:46 is exemplary although the particular context of that time is somewhat unique. We are not told how often to gather although the suggestion of 1 Corinthians 16:2 and Acts 20:7 suggest no less than one meeting a week and beyond that the judgment is left to us. But when we decide on gathering times, it is important that we should all gather that the fellowship of the company is not chiefly governed by absenteeism.
- B. We should gather in the proper spirit as in 1 Corinthians 11:18-22 and in the context of the reference in chapter 10:15 and following. It implies a proper preparation of heart (1 Cor 11:28, Matthew 5:22-23. Whether you come with a smile or not is not specified and many other things are not detailed but\ with a prepared heart--a right spirit--that is plain. And the further implication is that if your spirit is not right--don't go off and hide in a corner, make it right through confession and commitment and then gather.