

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On February 24, 2014, we received the following comment and inquiry:

“While I have expressed thoughts about your divergence from the Bible on some points, I also, as you may know, find agreement in many of your points that diverge from [Jehovah’s Witness] Theology. In your [1/9/2013](#) and [1/13/2013](#) responses to a writer about the timing of the Lord’s Supper, you accurately stated that the Bible does not specify exactly how often this should be observed. From a careful analysis of 1 Corinthians 11, it may be argued that it was in fact celebrated fairly often. As you know, the Bible allows Christians much freedom or latitude in many areas, and this seems to be one. (Galatians 5:1,13) Why don’t you share a little more with the international brotherhood that there is no need for such a big buildup for an annual observance of the Lord’s Supper? Obviously, the Scriptures give no evidence of any of the hoopla such as the [Jehovah’s Witness] splashy display on the world scene, leading up to their annual Spring Memorial”

To the author, thank you for your email, we are always glad to hear from you. You raise an issue that has been on our minds within the last couple of days, so we truly believe your email was spirit directed.

As you rightly state, we can conduct a Memorial Supper at any time we desire – even every day if we are so inclined. (*1 Corinthians 11:26*) It makes no sense for someone who recognizes their sonship to wait until the annual celebration to confess union with Christ. Who knows what can happen between that time. (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*)

For our part, we have encouraged such frequent commemorations ‘as often as’ our brothers get together. However, that does not mean that we cannot **also** choose to celebrate the Supper annually. We think there is significant spiritual advantage for our planet to set aside one particular day to honor the Christ in a united voice in a united way.

“Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had, so that unitedly you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – *Romans 15:5-6*

For that reason, in addition to the private Memorial Suppers we may have with just our immediate family and friends throughout the year, we encourage an annual Supper with extended family and friends whom we may not have seen in a while which can serve as a special time of association and encouragement. It can be a time to renew our joy for the hope we hold in common, and to welcome those who just recently began the race for the real life.

Nevertheless, we do understand your observations about the Watchtower Society’s hoopla in connection with an annual celebration of the Supper. As we mentioned in the article, **A Memorial of Offense**, their Memorial events have become unique opportunities to dishonor the Christ. Their staunch stance that the Memorial can only be celebrated annually effective limits the honor that could be shown to Jesus throughout the year, and suppresses our brothers’ burning desire to have a sharing with Christ whenever they so choose.

It seems that the Memorials of the Watchtower Society are more like an annual census taking. They want to see how many people they can get to come to their meetings. They are not

interested in how many people choose to have a sharing with Christ Jesus, or how many people choose to become a part of the body of Christ, or how many people choose to confess union with the Christ. If they did, they would not oppose and intimidate those who choose to do so, and they certainly would not hide their numbers from the public.

So while we agree that the Memorials of the Watchtower Society are a splashy display of ‘much ado about nothing,’ we do believe that annual celebrations are beneficial, upbuilding and encouraging, not only for us on earth, but also for our celestial family looking on. Imagine the spiritual energy that ascends when, on one day, so many people are offering prayers of thanksgiving and appreciation in honor of the one who has been given ‘all authority in heaven and on earth.’ (**Matthew 28:18**) Imagine the joy of the ‘angels of the congregations’ (**Revelation 1:20**) who are seeing progress in the ministry of Christ Jesus in the groups they oversee. Imagine the Father’s joy at so many united souls collectively honoring his appointed sovereign. (**Hebrews 1:2**) And imagine the satisfaction of Christ Jesus as he watches his creation, knowing that his life, his death and his ministry was not in vain! (**John 6:51**)

For these reasons and more, we wholeheartedly believe that it is never considered inappropriate by the Father to have this type of unity of believers confessing the Christ and renewing hope and consecration of will on a designated night. The words of the Apostle Paul to ‘keep our minds fixed on the things above’ (**Colossians 3:2**) are given supernal life on such a night. This is a golden opportunity for the true congregation of Christ who believe in God’s everlasting kindness and mercy to truly show appreciation as a collective all around the world of how much we value the life and death of our Lord and Savior. This type of expression and this type of love should be shown throughout the year, but when offered up as one united throng, it has incredible spiritual force.

Such outpouring of honor culminating in an annual commemoration is one of the most important things we hope to accomplish through this ministry. The annual Suppers can be widely advertised, but they should be modest, yet joyous occasions, attended by those who are willing to drink the cup of Christ and be baptized into his death. (**Romans 6:3-5**) It is our celebration of the life and death of Christ Jesus and our exodus from a world of confusion into ‘the kingdom of the son of his love.’ (**Colossians 1:13**) So while we should certainly commune with the Christ throughout the year, there is only honor and glory to be had for the Christ if we **also** honor him with one united voice on (or near) the anniversary of the first Memorial Supper.

“Elaia Luchnia”
