

continued from 272302

...day in our country's early history.

Why Worship Twice?

One of the reasons for having two services in America can be traced back to *shift work* in plants. Some brethren have to work on Sunday mornings and thus avail themselves of the evening service to worship. Churches who offer two services are being *considerate* of their brethren. We are taught to "*wait for one another*," 1 Cor. 11:33.

Another reason for having two services is simply the **need** for additional teaching. I once worshiped with a congregation that had *Sunday evening Bible classes* **and** *evening worship* -- in addition to the two times Sunday morning! Undoubtedly the elders of that congregation saw the great need to study God's Word and so appointed such services. Today, we are not so **learned** a people as to *quickly* do away with Sunday evening services. A **strong argument** can be made that the church *needs* to come together twice on Sunday.

In Hosea's day, God announced "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*" (Hosea 4:6)! God's people can be so destroyed again today by a lack of proper study and teaching. The apostle Paul taught the Christians at Corinth that "*you come together as a church*" (1 Cor. 11:18). There are things to be done **together** that cannot be satisfied by doing them **alone**. So *individual* Bible study, while important and commanded, does not fulfill our duty to *study together*. The church at Corinth came together, as required, to study God's Word, 1 Cor. 12:8.

In fact, the church at Corinth came **together** to (1) observe the Lord's Supper, 11:20; (2) exercise spiritual gifts, 12:7ff; (3) encourage each other with various talents, 12:17-24; (4) edify the church, 12:26; 14:4, 19; (5) practice mutual love, 13:1-6; (6) teach the lost who might assemble, 14:16, 22, 23; and (7) worship together, 14:25. So when we *fail* to assemble on Sunday evening, then we *miss* the opportunity to practice these things!

Conclusion

There are many reasons why the local church should avail itself of two services on Sunday. Wise elders will promote that which builds up and creates unity among brethren. The more we are together, then the more good we can do for each other. Brethren who love one another, who serve one another, and who are patient and longsuffering toward one another will choose to assemble with the saints whenever they meet (Heb. 10:24-25). It is more about the **whole** than it is about the **one**. This may be a lesson we have lost in modern America. Do not be overly consumed with your own *individual rights*. Seek to promote the **whole**!

"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" (Heb. 10:24-25).

272303