

**Acts 20:1-16**  
**The Christian Worship Service**

Introduction;

The fundamental worship service for Christians is not complicated; there are essentially very few basic elements. Luke in Acts records two major items which are composed of reading the Scriptures, preaching the Word and administering the sacraments, baptism and the Lord Supper. Undoubtedly we gather from Acts 1:20 that they read from the Psalms but psalms were also meant to be sung as we note in Paul's instruction in Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16 where we are told "to make melody in our hearts to the Lord" and to "let the word of Christ dwell in us richly which are expressed in singing of the Psalms. No worship is complete without prayer and thanksgiving. (Thess. 5:17; 18)

**I. Preaching the Word – v.7**

**A. Paul's long visit in Ephesus – 19:10**

1. Journeyed to Macedonia – II Cor. 8:1; 9:1-4
2. Journeyed to Greece – Rom. 15:19
3. Paul's other helpers: Titus and seven others – v.4 ; Eph. 4:25; I Cor. 12:12-26

**B. The worship service:**

1. They met together – v.7 (I Cor. 11:17,20; 14:23-26) Heb. 4:9-11; 10:24,25
2. They met together on "the first day of the week" The Christian Sabbath – ( Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10 (Matthew Henry's comment)
3. They met together to hear the ministry of the Word v. 7  
(The primacy of preaching – James Boice, Martyn Lloyd- Jones – Luke12) Acts 18:4; 19:8

**C. Eutychus**

1. He fell asleep while Paul's discourse went on – v.9 (Calvin's comment)
2. Parallel raising from the dead – (I Kings 17:21; II Kings 4:34; Luke 8:52-56; 7:11-16; 9:33-41)

**II. Celebrating of the Lord's Supper – v.11**

**A. Breaking Bread – equivalent to the Lord's Supper (fellowship meal) II Cor. 11:17-22)**

1. The order of worship – Preaching first – Acts 2:42
2. "Broken the bread" The definite article "The Bread"

**Conclusion:**

1. *As believers in Christ we need to guard against modernizing the worship service to comply with every kind of whim and fancy. (Regulative Principle – (John 4:22-24)*
2. *These two items, the Word and Sacrament are the means of grace. Those of us that are saved by grace must live by grace – ( I Cor. 1:3; II Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Gal. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2; I Thess. 1:1; II Thess. 1:2; I Tim. 1:2; II Tim. 1:2)*

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