

A “Battle” For Understanding

- *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 **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*
- “Battle” because it is not a neutral subject. When people act on their interpretation, they fight strongly for their position.
- The positions are clear:
- 1 This is a **single time of forsaking**
- 2. This is a **complete and final apostasy**

“Come Let us Reason Together”

- Calm, deliberate, logical, spiritual reasoning:
- Example of the Sabbath
- Comparing penalty of Lord’s Supper / Forsaking
- Definition of “*forsaking*”
- Definition of “*custom / manner?*”
- How does Jesus demand we assess priorities?
- How does Jesus explain these priorities?

Example: Sabbath - a “*shadow & type*”

- Sabbaths were a “*type and shadow of good things to come,*” (Col 2:16-17), revealing the true spiritual realities of the 1st day of the week.
- When Peter preached to Israel they were first to kingdom. They would see the first day of the week as of greater importance than Sabbath.
- They knew it was not a complete desertion of the Sabbath but a single event.

Calm, Logical & Scriptural

- Example of the Sabbath?
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Corinth – Going through the Motions

- “*whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord **in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.***”
- *For he who eats and drinks **in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself,***
- A “**worthy manner**” do everything God revealed with reverence, awe and fear.
- An “**unworthy manner**” partake of the Lord’s Supper without proper spiritual and emotional attitude and thoughts.
- They knew this was a single event.
- Lead to complete desertion but starts with first.

Compare Forsaking / Unworthy Manner

- condemnation and punishment for forsaking.
- Far beyond eating / drinking in unworthy manner
- Don't even come together with church to take Lord's Supper. Forsake the assembly entirely:
- *trampled the Son of God underfoot,*
- *counted the blood of the covenant a common thing*
- *insulted the Spirit of grace"* (Heb. 10:29-30).
- What is the difference: "*guilty of the body and the blood*" with "*trampling the Son of God underfoot,*"
- Same guilt in different words.
- If Lord's Supper is single event, why not forsaking

Calm, Logical & Scriptural

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Forsaking

- *enkataleipo* ... denotes (a) "to leave behind, among, leave surviving," Rom 9:29; (b) **to forsake, abandon, leave in straits, or helpless** (Vine's Expository Dictionary NT:1459)
- *enkataleipo* 1. **to abandon, desert** i.e. to leave in straits, leave helpless, b 10:25. 2. (Thayer, NT:1459)
- *egkataleipæ*; from *en* (1722), in, and *kataleipo* (2641), **to forsake, desert. To leave behind in any place or state.** (Complete Word Study Dictionary: NT:1459)
- *kataleipo* **forsake, abandon, leave in the lurch,** Hom.(Liddell & Scott Greek Lexicon)

Definitions leave two options

- Definitions don't answer the type of forsaking.
- The word can mean a permanent forsaking. An apostasy with no intention to ever return.
- It can also mean a more limited forsaking.
- Being "left in the lurch, abandoned and left in straits," a single time.
- For example if I promise to pick you up at the airport and forget, you are left in the lurch and abandoned and in straits for that day and moment.
- Yet as soon as you call and remind me, I would repent and quickly return to help you.

Forsaking



- *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You **forsaken** Me?" Mt 27:46*
- Did Jesus proclaim God had completely forsaken him, never to return?
- Or was He saying that while on the cross God had left and abandoned?
- God left Jesus to die on the cross. He did not help Him, but left Him in those straits just as it was foretold. Yet even Isaiah makes it clear that after this single event, God would return.

- *For You will not **leave** my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
Acts 2:27*
- Once again we are faced with the same question. Did David/Peter mean God would not forsake His soul in Hades throughout all eternity?
- Even for David that was not possible. This was an abandonment that was only temporary.
- When the end comes, all who are in Hades will be brought out by Him who has the key.

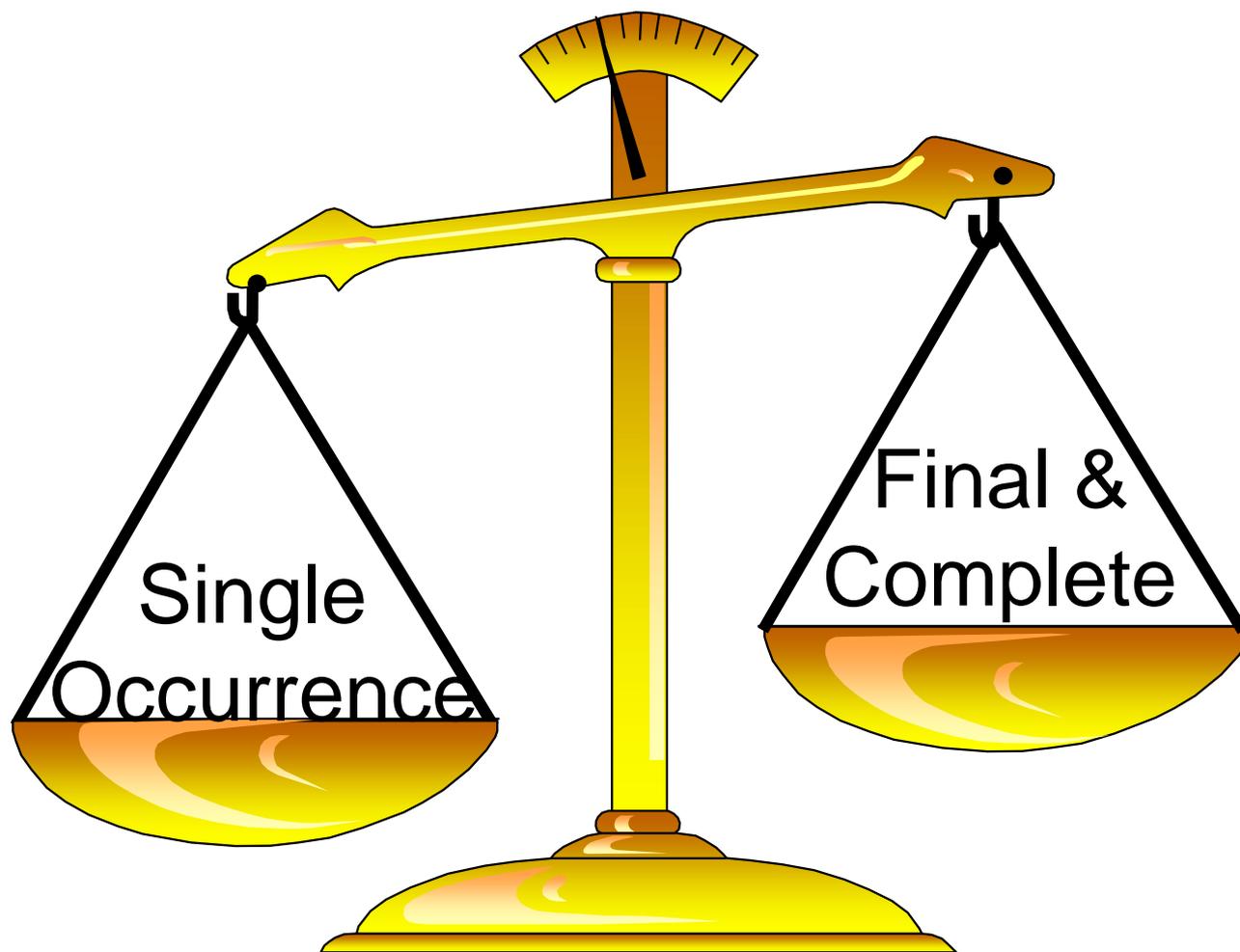
- *for Demas has **forsaken** me, having loved this present world, 2Tim. 4:10*
- *At my first defense no one stood with me, but all **forsook** me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, 2Tim. 4:16-17*
- Was this only for that moment or always?
- While for Demas it may have been permanent, what about those in Rome? Did they forsake Paul completely with no intention of ever having a relationship again or that at that extreme moment when standing with Paul meant death, they abandoned him and left him in straits. There is no way to prove either way, but one would be complete apostasy and the other a momentary lapse like Peter.

- *For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor **forsake** you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Heb 13:5-6*
- Is God only comforting us with the promise that he will never completely and forever forsake us?
- But leaving individual moments where He might.
- How comforting would this verse be if it only meant He would never forsake with no intention to return, but making no promises about each time?
- This would leave doubt whether or not in any single even He might forsake us, though never forever? If He never forsakes us in each individual event, we are always safe and comforted.

en-kataleipo & kataleipo – Same Def.

- *kataleipo* **forsake, abandon, leave in the lurch**, Hom.(Liddell & Scott Greek Lexicon)
- *Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be **left in Athens alone**, 1Th. 3:1*
- *and said, 'For this reason a man shall **leave his father and mother** and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? Mt. 19:5*
- *But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that **my sister has left me to serve alone**? Therefore tell her to help me." Lk 10:40*

Just Enough Evidence to Create Doubt



“Come Let us Reason Together”

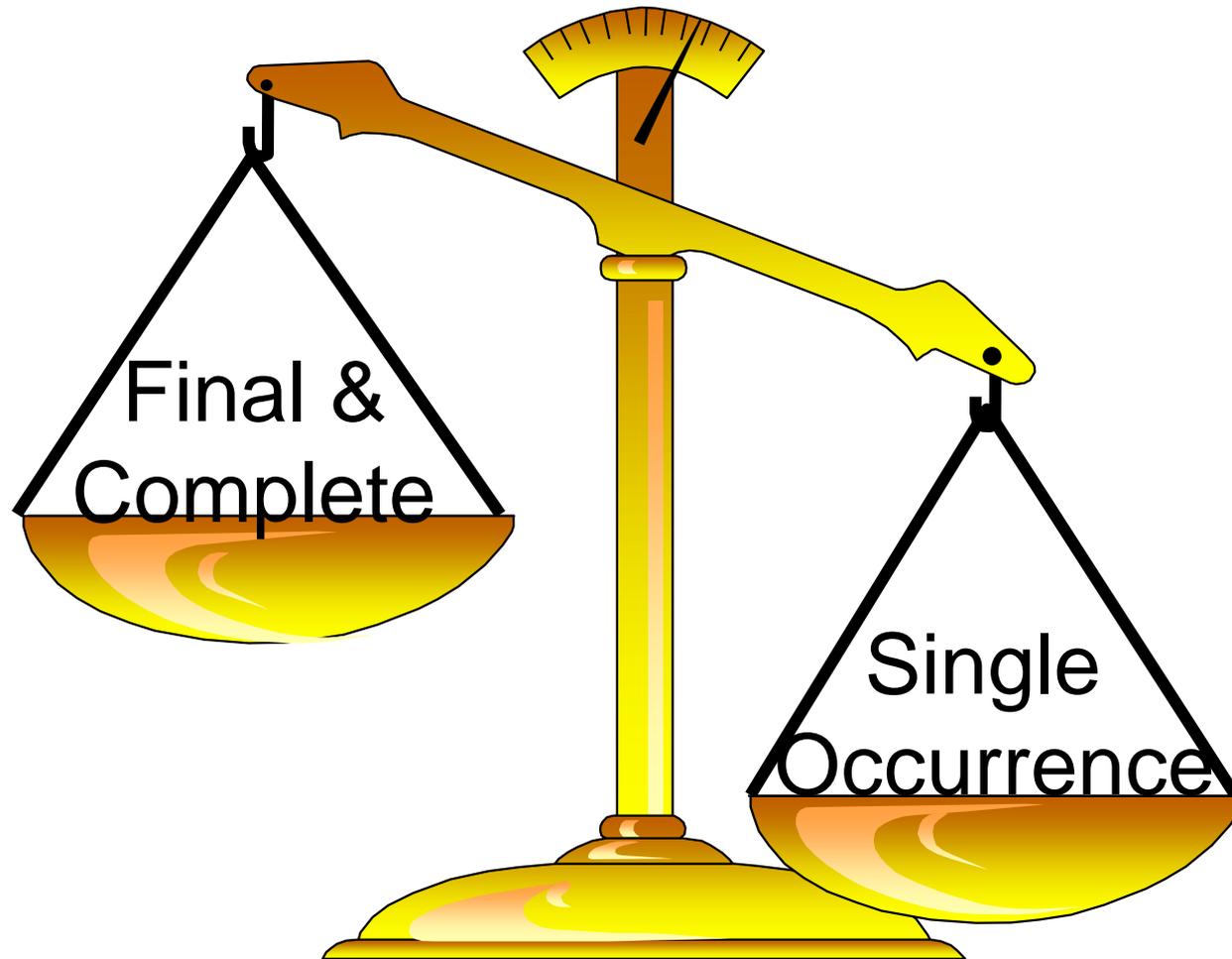
- What evidence do we have to assess?
- Example of the Sabbath?
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- *éthos*; ... **Custom, usual practice or manner, whether established by law or otherwise**
(Complete Word Study Dictionary: NT: 1483)
- *éthos*; ... **custom, habit, ... to be in the habit, habitually, ...**” (Liddell & Scott Abridged Greek Lexicon NT:1485)

- According to the **custom** of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord Lk. 1:9
- And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the **custom** of the feast. Lk. 2:42-43
- Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was **accustomed**, and His disciples also followed Him. Lk. 22:39
- Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the **custom** of the Jews is to bury. Jn. 19:40-41

- *Then Paul, as his **custom** was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, Acts 17:2*
- *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 10:25*
- can only become a **habit** or **custom** if it is a single occurrence repeated enough to become a habit
- If it is a complete apostasy it can only happen once. How could forsaking as a complete apostasy ever become a habit/custom?

Now Even More Evidence to Create Doubt



Calm, Logical & Scriptural

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Jesus' Demands: Assessing Priorities

● **Choosing Assembly over Work and Possessions**

● *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Mt. 6:19-20*

● *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Mt. 6:24*

● How will we defend ourselves?

Jesus' Demands: Assessing Priorities

- **Choosing Assembly over Work and Possessions**

- *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Mt 6:33-34*

- **Choosing Assembly over Family Relationships**

- *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Mt. 10:37-39*

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The Sabbath was not Absolute

- *At that season Jesus went on the sabbath day through the grainfields; and his disciples were hungry and began to pluck ears and to eat. 2 But the Pharisees, when they saw it, said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which it is not lawful to do upon the sabbath.*
- David and the showbread
- Priests and sacrifices on Sabbath
- If you knew: *I desire mercy and not sacrifice you would not condemn the guiltless.*
- Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath
- sabbath made for man, not man for the sabbath

- *behold, a man having a withered hand. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? that they might accuse him.*
- *What man shall there be of you, that shall have one sheep, and if this fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? Mt. 12:9-15*
- *If a man receiveth circumcision on the sabbath, that the law of Moses may not be broken Jn. 7:23*

Conclusion

- Forsaking the assembly is dangerous.
- We don't know for certain if it is a single time but the evidence points in that direction.
- It must not be entered lightly.
- Penalties for unworthy taking of the Lord's supper must be compounded if we forsake.
- God is watching our heart and our priorities. If we get it wrong and choose our life or our possessions over Him, we will give account.
- I will always teach it is better to change jobs and make sacrifices to attend the services.