

# Using the New Testament To Find Out What We Must Do

## ST. MATTHEW 7

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14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 ¶ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather

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# The New Testament

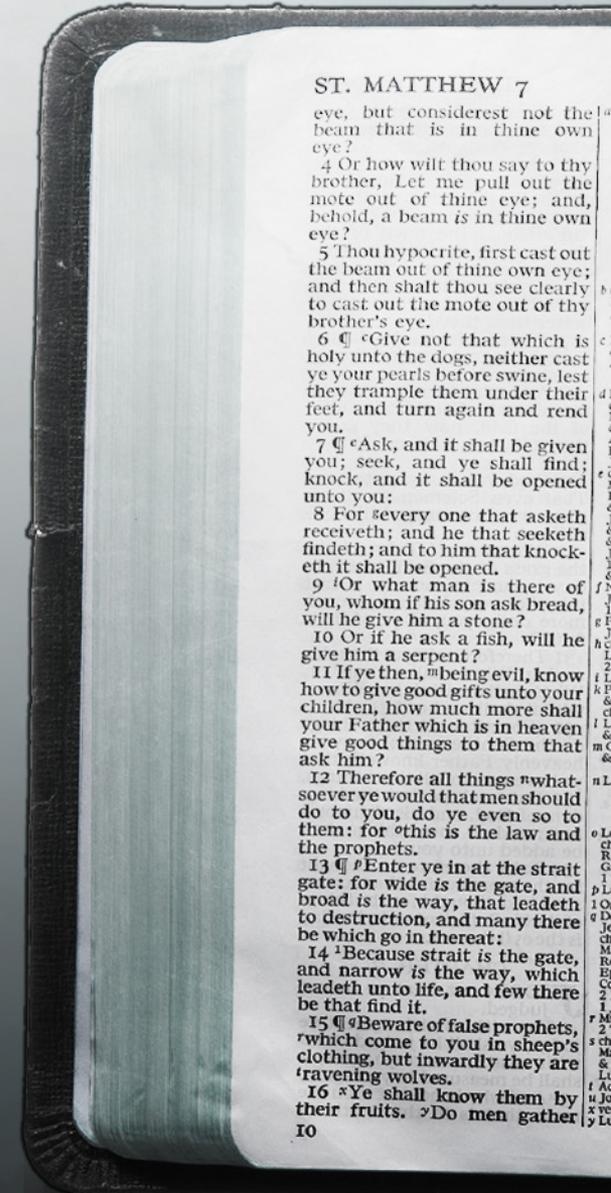
Four Books: The life of Jesus Christ

One book: History of spread of Gospel.

Eight books: Letters to specific 1<sup>st</sup> century churches – commendation, correction, information.

Four books: Letters to individual Christians in 1<sup>st</sup> century – informing and encouraging.

Ten books: Letters to churches in a region, or to Christians in general – commendation, correction, information.



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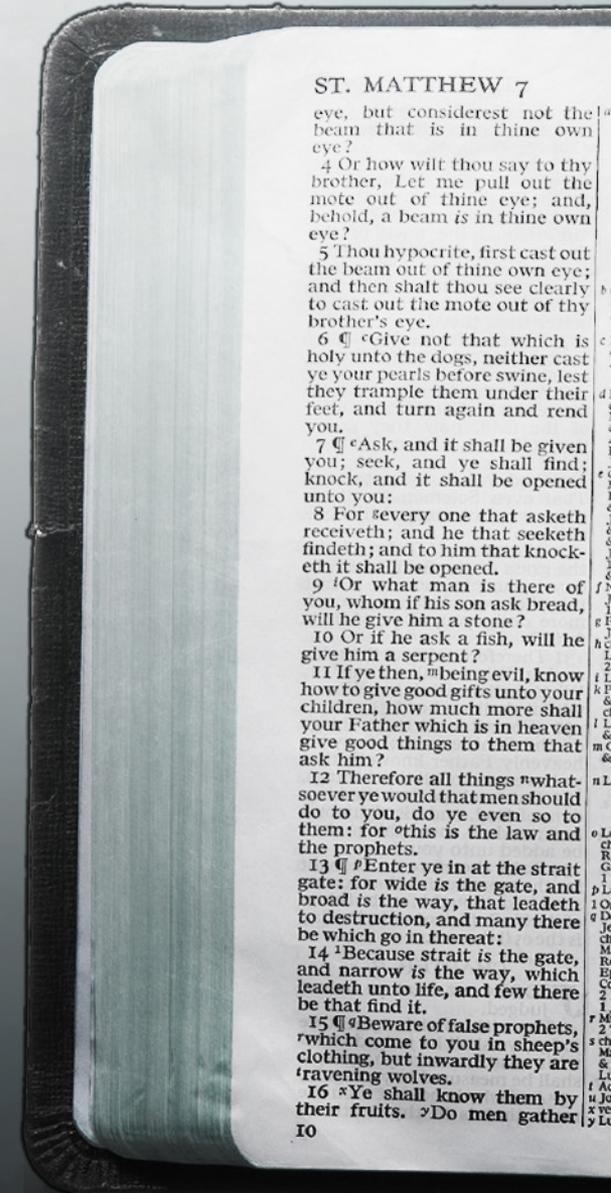
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# Key to Using the New Testament:

What made a person a faithful Christian in the 1<sup>st</sup> century will make a person a faithful Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

What made a church faithful in the 1<sup>st</sup> century will make a church faithful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Col. 4:16; Acts 2:39; Jude 3



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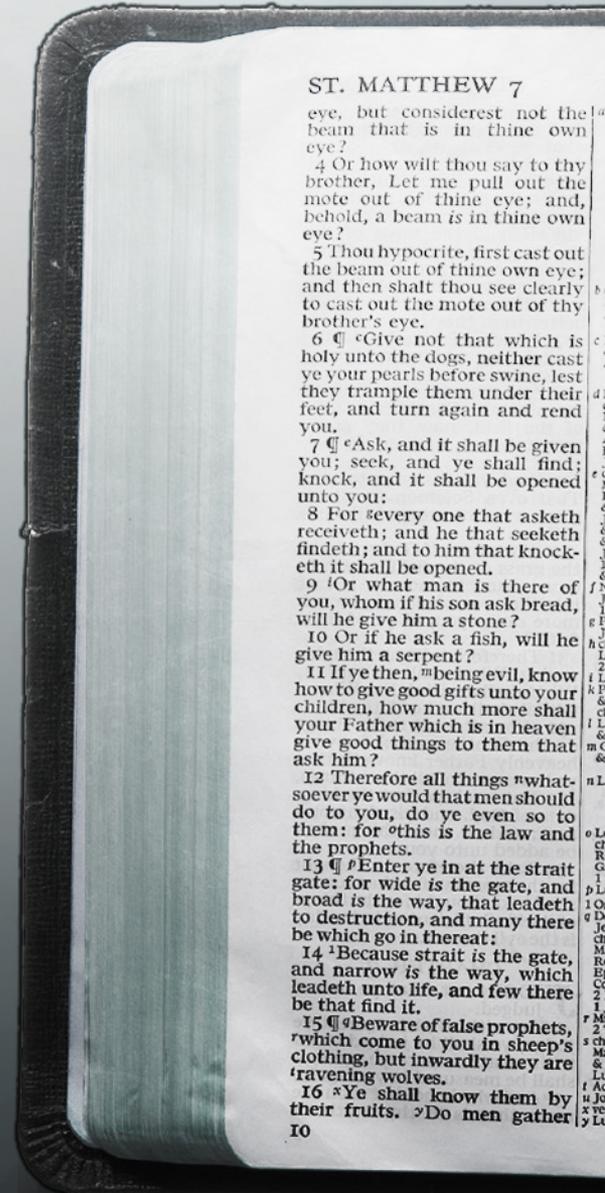
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# Our Challenge:

Take these stories about people's lives in the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the commendations, corrections, and doctrinal truths presented, and learn what we need to do to be faithful Christians and a faithful church now.

Universal and timeless  
**COMMANDS**

Universal and timeless  
**EXAMPLES**



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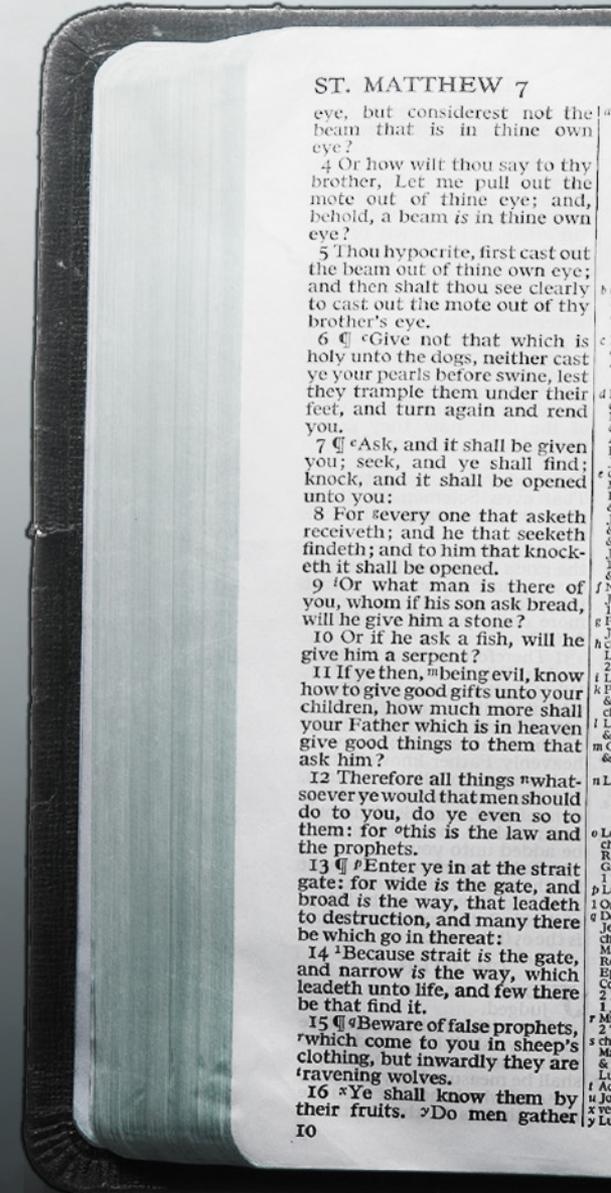
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# Is it Universal and Timeless?

- Look at the context:
  - Who is being spoken to?
  - Any special circumstances?
- Consider other passages:
  - Any other truths about it?
- Use common sense:
  - What can be necessarily inferred from the passage?



# Luke 24:49

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

➤ Who is being spoken to?

*The apostles*

➤ Special circumstances?

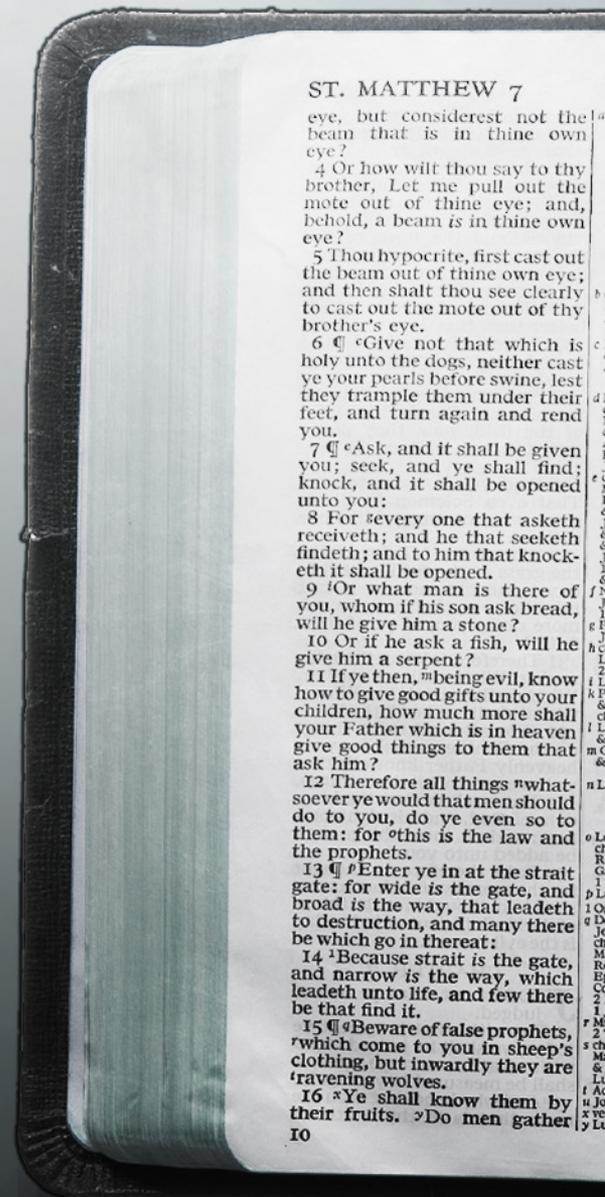
*Promise made to them  
and no one else*

➤ Any other passages help?

*Acts 1 & 2*

➤ What can we conclude?

*Do not book a flight to Jerusalem!*



# New Testament Commands

## ➤ Imperatives:

*Direct expression of the will.*

## Acts 2:38

- Who is being spoken to?

*Sinners who now believe in Jesus Christ.*

- Special circumstances?

*Perhaps their direct hand in crucifixion?*

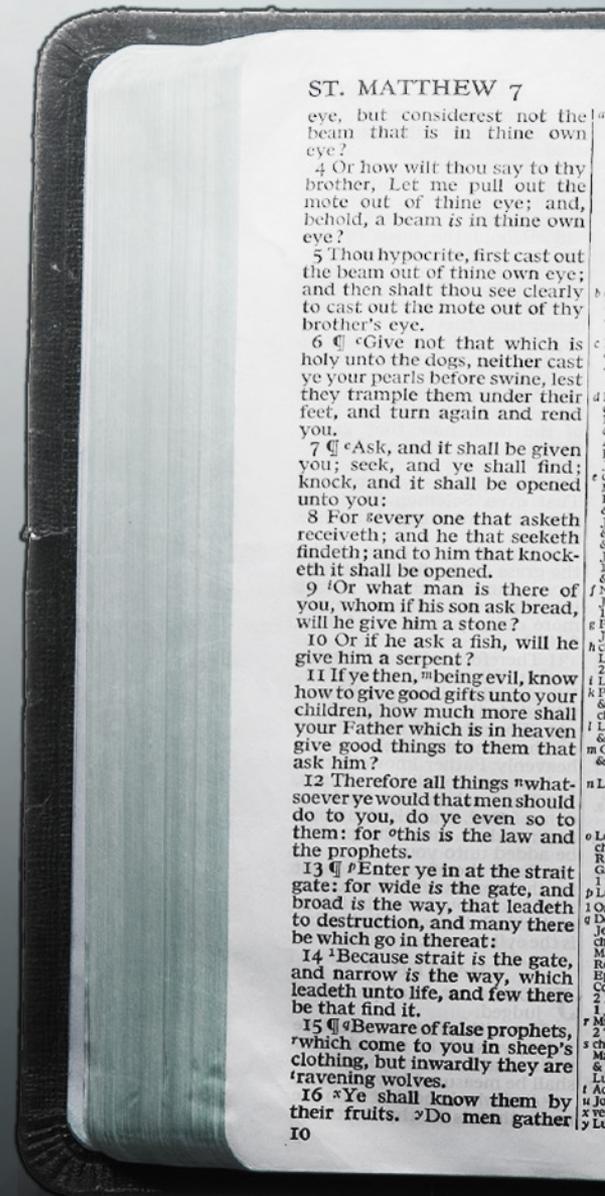
- Other passages that help clarify?

*Mat. 28:19; 1 Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:39*

- What common sense tells us?

*A universal and timeless command.*

*Applicable to us!*



# New Testament Commands

## ➤ Statements:

*Indirect expression of a fact.*

## John 3:16

### ■ Who is being spoken to?

*Nicodemus, a Jewish leader.*

### ■ Special circumstances?

*What anyone must do to see God's kingdom.*

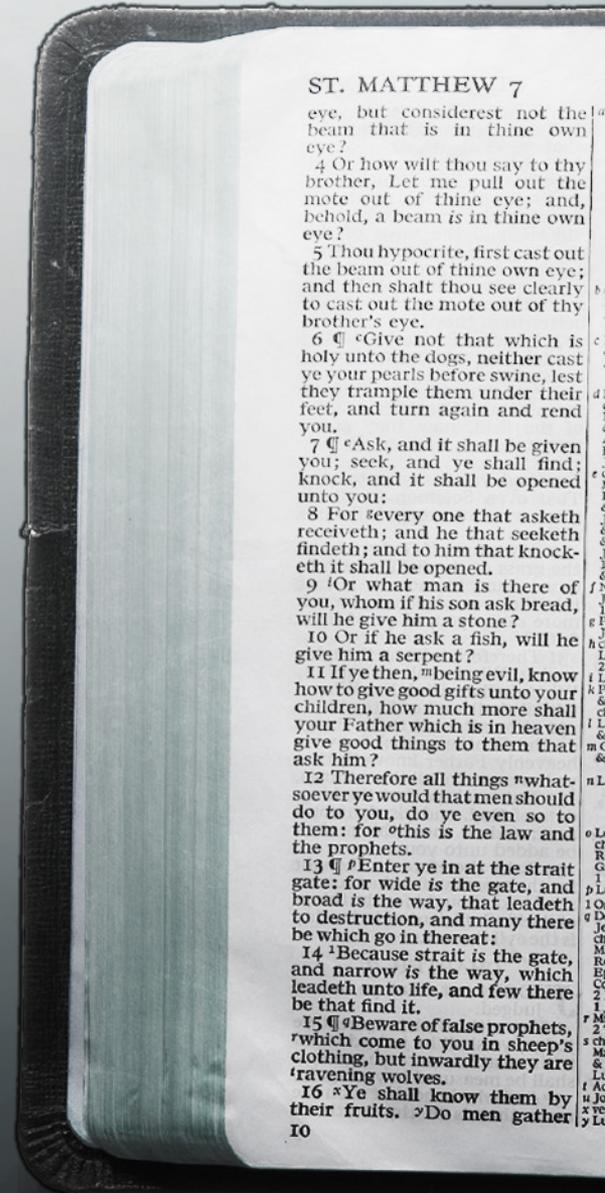
### ■ Other passages that help clarify?

*Mark 16:16; Heb. 11:6*

### ■ What common sense tells us?

*A universal and timeless command.*

*Applicable to us!*



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# New Testament Examples

- Are they authoritative?

*1 Pet. 2:21; Phil. 2:5 – Christ's example*

*1 Cor. 11:1 – Apostle Paul's example*

*1 Thes. 1:6-7 – Thessalonian church example*

- The rule of precedent.

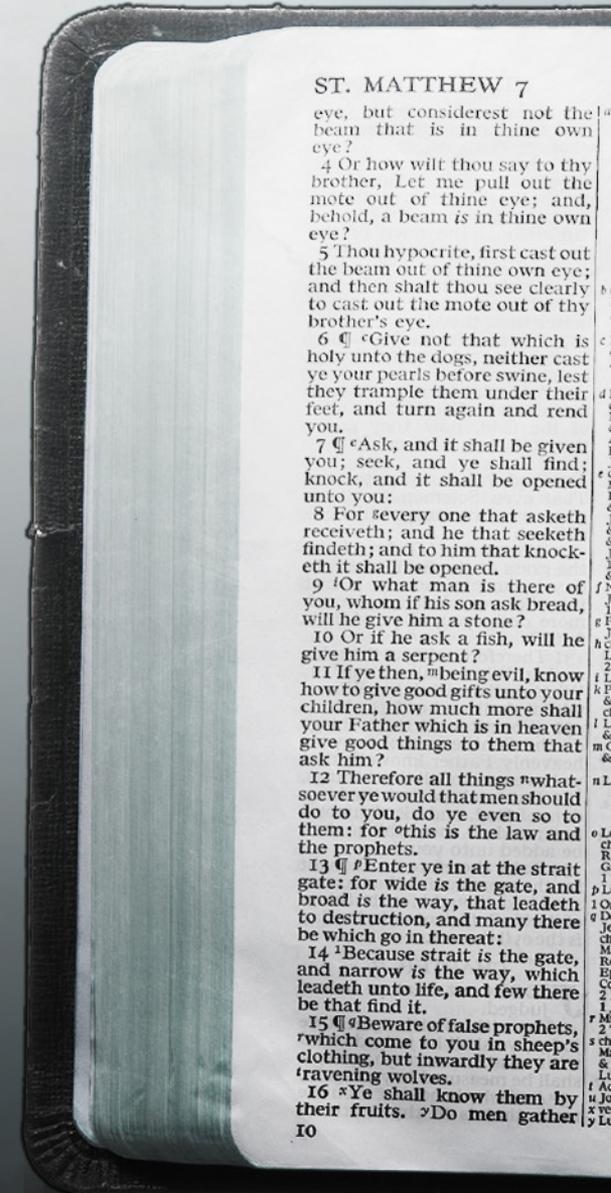
When something upheld by court of law becomes a precedent in cases that follow.

*Phil. 2:5 – Jesus' humility.*

*Acts 5:27-29 – Obey God over man.*

*1 Cor. 9:26-27 – Discipline of the body.*

*Acts 20:7 – Lord's Supper on 1<sup>st</sup> day of week.*



# New Testament Examples

## Acts 20:7 – Troas & Lord's Supper

- Who is being spoken about?

*Church in Troas*

- Special circumstances?

*Seems to be Troas' established pattern.*

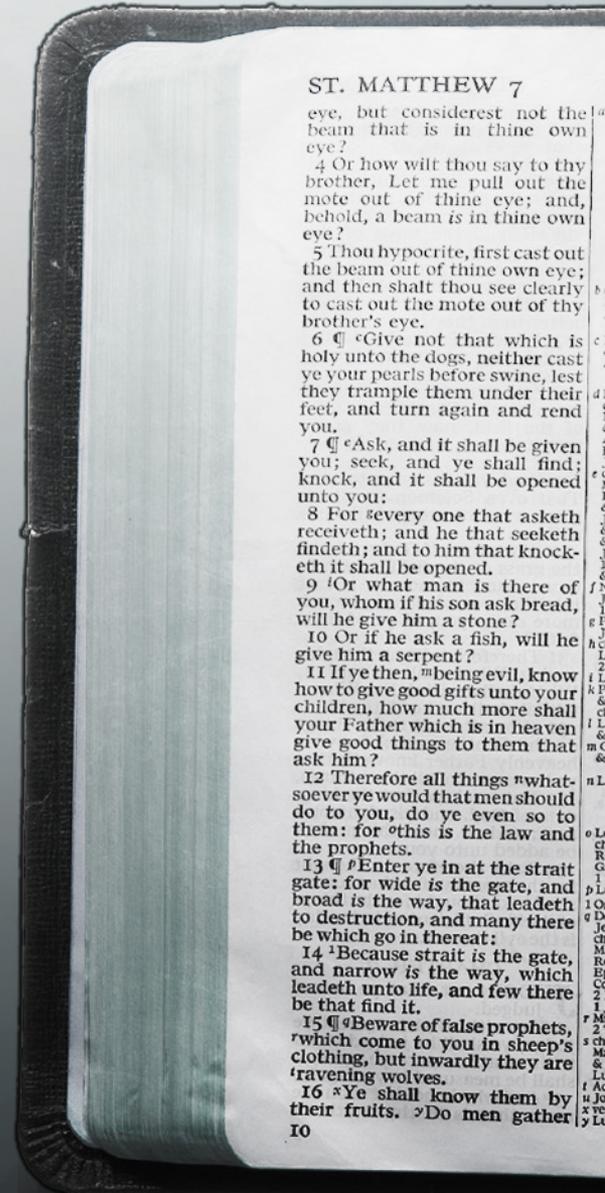
- Other passages that help clarify?

*Mat. 28:26-29; Acts 2:42;*

*1 Cor. 11:20 ff; 1 Cor. 16:1-2*

- What common sense tells us?

*We are safely inside biblical precedent when we partake on 1<sup>st</sup> day of week.*



# 1 John 3:24

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.”

# Rev. 22:14

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

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