

“Let Us Celebrate the Feast”

Intro: This morning in our lesson we talked about the Passover and how that in it God was giving clues to what He would do through His son, that He would be a lamb offered for the sins of the world. We noted this morning that the observance of the Passover ritual had two essential actions.

The Passover lamb was slain and eaten

A Feast of Unleavened Bread was to be eaten

Just as the Passover is a picture of Christ; the feast of unleavened bread is a picture of the church of Christ. Let me show you how.

When God called the Israelites from bondage, he urged them to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Passover lamb was to be eaten in the context of another simultaneous feast, the feast unleavened bread. This feast had three essential features:

A search made & leaven removed

... on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses (Exodus 12:15)

In Jewish ritual this was a deliberate act. All leaven found in the house was taken to the temple and burned in connection with the slaying of the Passover lamb.

A feast is celebrated

You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread. (Exodus 12:20)

Every day of the week

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. (Exodus 12:15)

Signified the urgent preparations for leaving bondage and going to the Promised Land

And the Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders. (Exodus 12:33-34)

Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord’s Passover. (Exodus 12:11)

Just as the Passover is a picture of Christ, the feast of unleavened bread is a picture of the church of Christ.

Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

Having searched out and removed sin...

Throughout the NT “leaven” is portrayed as a corrupting influence and a symbol of sin.

If the church is to benefit from the Passover Lamb, it must also remove sin from its midst. There must be repentance!

We must remove malice and wickedness in our personal lives
And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Not only must we strive for personal repentance; but we must also make effort to encourage repentance in the whole body. We must refuse association with those who revert to the old way of life.

But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. (1 Corinthians 5:11)

Paul taught the Corinthians that their continued association with brethren who lived in sin would have a corrupting influence on the church and at the same time would not save the sinner.

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? (1 Corinthians 5:6)

Why the Corinthians were proud of themselves, I’m not sure; but their indifference to an incestuous man in their midst was deplorable and needed action.

We must celebrate the feast of a holy life...

Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:8)

We must eat the “unleavened bread” of sincerity and truth. This is Paul’s way of saying two things about the church of Christ.

We must be sincere people.

We must practice the truth revealed by Christ and His apostles.

It is the constant call of the NT

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

...Every day of the week!

Just as the feast of unleavened bread lasted seven days, or a whole week, so God’s people must celebrate the feast “seven days” or every day of the week.

Our whole life, our daily existence is a manifestation of the appreciation we owe Jesus for being our Passover lamb.

By His sacrifice, we are delivered from sin.

By our good works, we display our love and appreciation for
His deliverance.

*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called
“Today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
(Hebrews 3:13)*

**Conclusion: Every day let us put aside the leavened bread of malice and
wickedness and “celebrate the feast” with the unleavened bread of sincerity and
truth.**