

THE PERPETUAL PASSOVER
Living Truth Church—Prescott, AZ
April 5, 2023

“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep 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

Introduction

1. The problem Paul is addressing is sexual sin in the Church (1 Cor. 5:1–6).
2. Paul uses the Passover as an example of three spiritual realities:
 - a. Salvation: *“since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”*
 - b. Cleansing: *“purge out the old leaven ... not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness.”*
 - c. Daily fellowship with God: *“Therefore, let us keep the feast ...”*
3. The phrase, “purge out” is from *katharizo* (aorist imperative), which means to “wash, cleanse, purify.” Then “let us keep the feast” is *eortazo*, an exhortation (present active subjunctive) to “keep on achieving a spiritual potential, to live in the reality of which the Passover was a type or picture.”

The Passover Type (Exodus 12)

1. It represented a new beginning, vv. 1–2 (Deut. 16:1–2).

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
2 Corinthians 5:17
2. It was based on a substitutionary sacrifice, vv. 3–7 (Lev. 23:5, 12; 1 Pet. 1:19).

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
2 Corinthians 5:21

3. The end goal of the feast was to enter into fellowship with God for the purpose of service in His plan, vv. 8–11 (Eph. 2:8–10).

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:10

Note: Israel was to eat it dressed and ready to move out—to go and claim the land. Canaan is not a picture of Heaven, but rather of the mature, spiritual life where “giants” are conquered by faith!

4. Deliverance from the wrath of God was gained by the application of the blood of the Lamb (vv. 12–13).

*“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood,
we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”*

Romans 5:9

5. It was to be a perpetual memorial in Israel, vv. 14, 26–27.

*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”*

1 Corinthians 11:26

6. God supplied supernatural provisions for the task, vv. 35–36.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with
every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”*

Ephesians 1:3

The Failure of Israel (1 Corinthians 10:1–12)

1. All Israel enjoyed the benefits of the Passover, vv. 1–4.
 - a. All of them were delivered out of bondage, v. 1.
 - b. All enjoyed identification/fellowship with Moses, v. 2. Although Israel, as a whole, was arrogant and rebellious, Moses was both humble and obedient (Exod. 33:11; Num. 12:7–8). Though they did not always identify with him, he always identified with them (Exod. 32:9–14, 31–34).

Four waterless baptisms (identifications):

- 1) The Cross (Mark 10:38; Luke 12:50),
 - 2) Moses (1 Cor. 10:2),
 - 3) The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:13), and
 - 4) Fire (Matt. 3:11–12).
- c. All were provided spiritual food/drink, vv. 3–4.
2. Yet most of them failed to utilize their spiritual assets, vv. 5–10.
 3. Israel in the wilderness becomes a warning to present-day believers of the danger of carnal living (failure to “keep the feast”), vv. 11–12.

Note: Israel ceased celebrating the Passover after Samuel died—for 400 years—until Josiah became king (2 Chron. 35:17–19).

Jesus’ Teaching on the Passover (John 13–17)

1. The provision for cleansing—“bathed ... wash,” John 13:7–11. “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me,” John 13:8. The Greek word for “part” is *meros*, meaning “fellowship.”

Three cleansings of the believer:

- a. Salvation (Eph. 5:26; Titus 3:5)
 - b. Confession (1 John 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:20–21)
 - c. Obedience (1 John 1:7; Gal. 5:16)
2. The provision for power—the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 14:12–18).
 3. The perpetuation of the feast—abiding/fellowship (John 15:1–8).
 4. The land to conquer—conviction leading to conversion (John 16:7–14).
 5. The staff and the journey—the whole Word to the whole world (John 17:14–19).
“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” v. 18.

Point: So important was this truth, that Jesus repeated it to them after His resurrection!

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”
John 20:21

Summary: How Do We Keep the Feast “with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth?”

1. We apply the cleansing power of the blood of Christ on a daily basis, by examining ourselves and confessing our sins (1 Cor. 11:28, 31; 1 John 1:9).
2. We daily feed on the bread and drink the spiritual drink of the Word of God, by the illumination of His Spirit (Isa. 55:1–3; John 7:37–39).
3. We go forth into our world equipped to do His will in making the Gospel known and bringing others to Him (Matt. 28:18–20; 1 Pet. 3:15).
4. Just as union with Christ by faith provides us with a perpetual Sabbath (Heb. 4:9–11), even so, we are gifted with a perpetual Passover!

At the very least, these are the means of living in a daily celebration of the Feast of Passover.

Let us never forget, the Sunday after Passover is Resurrection Day!