

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

Our Easter Feast
- Is every today
-Celebrate It

Rather odd text for Easter. That was my thought when I looked up the text for this morning. It becomes even weirder when you realize the full context. The context of these verses is the Corinthians had in their midst someone who was living in sin and the congregation had done nothing about it. When Paul talks about purging out the old leaven, he is partly talking about excommunicating that unrepentant sinner. So as I said, it doesn't seem like a fit topic for Easter and yet it is. Paul connects it with the Easter celebration. That reference to "therefore let us keep the feast", that is a reference to Easter. Easter is the New Testament Passover feast. Paul was telling the Corinthians that before they celebrated Easter they should remove all the leaven from their midst. So we have brunch waiting downstairs and there are all kinds things that contain yeast like cinnamon rolls and butterhorns

and toast. Do we need to go throw them in the road before we can celebrate Easter? Or since the context is the impenitent, before we can celebrate Easter do we need to go on a witch hunt? Should we gather everyone's tax returns to see which ones of you weren't honest on those? Should we go interview former girlfriends and boyfriends to see if your actions were always appropriate? Should we get your income and offerings and put them before the whole church so we can see who hasn't given as they have prospered? Is that the kind of thing Paul is telling us to do? Does that sound like an Easter celebration to you? It doesn't to me and not just because I love cinnamon rolls. Yet, Paul is telling us how to celebrate Easter here. So what does he mean?

Let's review the origins of the predecessor to our Easter celebration- the Passover. Understanding it will help us understand Paul's references in our text. We heard last Sunday how on the Sunday of Passover week the Jews selected the Passover lamb to be killed later in the week. Well, during that week before the Passover meal on Thursday night they were to completely purge from their homes all leavening agents such as yeast. This was the biggest

requisite, besides finding a lamb without spots, to celebrating the Passover. If they weren't confident they got all the yeast out of their homes, they shouldn't celebrate the Passover.

Once they had all the yeast out of their homes and had killed the Passover lamb and smeared its blood on their doors, They could then keep the feast. They could feast on the lamb and the unleavened bread that was made for the Passover.

Don't you see how our Easter is the continuation and fulfillment of the Passover meal? The Passover feast could not commence until a spotless lamb was found and killed and the yeast was removed from their lives and neither can ours. That first requirement has been met. The lamb was found and killed. Not just any lamb, the true Passover lamb. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World. Jesus' resurrection from the dead on this morning shows us that He is that Passover lamb as **Romans 4:25 says** "*who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification*". That is what we celebrate this morning.

We have our Passover lamb. He was dead but now is alive.

But what about the 2nd requirement? Has all the yeast been removed from our lives? Jesus is alive and so He is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Yes, some of you some year or another were not honest in your taxes or did not do your due diligence, yes, some of you did not act appropriately with boyfriends and girlfriends, yes, some of you have not always been cheerful givers, these and many other sins stand against us which makes fair game for the angel of death to take our life and deliver it into the hands of Satan. But don't you see that is why we celebrate, Christ our Passover Lamb was sacrificed for us and arose victorious from strife with death and Satan crushed beneath his feet, and sin, your sin, left behind him in the grave. Yes you have done those things, but Christ's blood has forgiven those things.

Jesus is alive today and alive tomorrow and every tomorrow. Grace and forgiveness is then alive today and tomorrow and every tomorrow. Eternal life is yours in the Passover lamb who sacrificed for you and arose from that strife to bring you the victory. Do you know what that makes every day? Every day is our Passover, every day is our Easter celebration. Our celebration is not

just once a year but every day. Because today tomorrow and every tomorrow is one in which Christ is alive and God passes over our sin. It has been nailed to the cross. Because today, tomorrow, and every tomorrow, is one that Christ is alive and we have victory in over death and hell.

As the first Passover, “Israel’s emancipation from Egypt constituted the foundation of the national and religious life of the Hebrews, so we Christians date” our emancipation from death from hell from sin and the foundation of all that we are and have and will be from Easter, our Passover. Yes we date our years from his birth but we call them A.D (anno Domino) in the year of our Lord. Confessing that He is not dead but living. He is alive today and He will be alive tomorrow. And so we don’t keep our feast once a year but every day. Every day is to be a Passover feast, an Easter celebration.

So how do we celebrate? By having Easter brunch every day? That sounds a little exhausting. Good, but exhausting. We celebrate Easter, we keep the Passover feast when we purge out the old leaven and partake of the unleavened bread of sincerity and

truth. Remember in the Old Testament how before the Passover meal they were to find every bit of yeast and remove it from their lives and then after the Passover lamb was sacrificed they were to keep the feast with unleavened bread. The whole point of that was symbolic. Now that we have the risen Jesus, the eternal Passover lamb who is alive today, tomorrow, and every tomorrow, we are to have unleavened lives. Paul doesn’t mean our bread can’t have yeast, he means we keep the Passover feast by removing the old yeast not from our bread but from our lives. The old yeast of how we acted and lived before the blood of the Passover lamb was painted across our soul, the yeast of the world and how the world lives and acts. The Corinthians had let such yeast creep back into their lives and I am not just talking about unrepentant sinners, I mean the congregation as a whole by being too lazy and indifferent to discipline their brother, to have an intervention to call him to repentance, that was old yeast. There is old yeast among us too. 1

Corinthians 3:3 *For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? Also* **Ephesians**

5:3-4 *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even*

be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting.

Aren't these things in your life? When we go downstairs here in a little bit to enjoy fellowship and food, is it not possible that some of you will think "I don't want to sit by that person they wronged me in the past." Isn't it true that in the past and probably in the future when one of these, your brothers and sisters in Christ were in need, in need of comfort, in need of encouraging, in need of disciplining, that just like the Corinthians you have just been too lazy or selfish to do it? That too is old leaven. But we keep the feast, we celebrate that our Passover is come by throwing out this yeast. But this is how we celebrate that today and tomorrow and every tomorrow are Easter. We don't celebrate by doing things perfectly, we can't until we stand glorified in heaven. We celebrate by daily throwing out that old leaven because we have been perfected in Christ. Christ is alive. Throw out neglecting your wife. Throw out grumbling about your husband. Satan lies and deceives us into thinking it is a chore and boring and tedious to continually repent, that it is a chore to come to one another to ask forgiveness

for harsh words or to encourage one another, but it is a joy. It is keeping the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. It is joy because Christ our Passover lamb was sacrificed and arose from that strife victorious. Although we are sinners, we aren't owned by sin. Christ has conquered it. Although we are dying, we aren't owned by death. Christ has conquered it. Although Satan often tricks us into doing his will, we aren't his children. Christ has conquered him and saved us. Keep this feast. Celebrate this today, and every today. Celebrate it by rejoicing. Celebrate it by throwing out the old leaven, for you truly are unleavened. Your sin is forgiven. Throw out the old leaven of the love of sin, of fear of death, of willingness to follow the world and Satan. Throw out animosity. Throw out grudges. Throw out self-centeredness. Throw out snapping at one another. Throw out being passive aggressive with one another. You are new men and women in Christ who is alive today, tomorrow, and every tomorrow, so keep the feast today, tomorrow, and every tomorrow.

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