

Pre-Passover SELF-Examination

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Introduction & Purpose of Today's Message:

With Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread only a month away, I think it appropriate we look at the subject of self examination so we can observe the New Testament Passover in a manner pleasing to God.

Need:

1 Corinthians 11:29 NKJV - For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Luke 22:7 NKJV - Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

Amplified Bible: Then came the *preparation* day of [fn]Unleavened Bread on which the Passover *lamb* had to be sacrificed.

[fn] Footnote from Amplified Bible: Partially correct, partially in error.

"This remembrance lasted eight days. The Passover lambs were selected on the tenth of Nisan (March/April) and sacrificed on the fourteenth of Nisan (the first day of the feast). The Passover meal was eaten that same night (15 Nisan). This was immediately followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (15-21 Nisan). The terms "Passover" and "The Feast of Unleavened Bread" were used interchangeably."

What scripture says:

Leviticus 23:4 NKJV - 'These [are] the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

Leviticus 23:5 NKJV - '**On the fourteenth [day] of the first month at twilight [is] the LORD's Passover.**

The Passover is kept at the beginning of the 14th, just after sunset, at twilight.

Leviticus 23:6 NKJV - 'And **on the fifteenth day of the same month [is] the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD**; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

Leviticus 23:7 NKJV - 'On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

The holy day is on the 15th.

Leviticus 23:8 NKJV - 'But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day [shall be] a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work [on it].' "

Also

Numbers 28:16 NKJV - 'On the fourteenth day of the first month [is] the Passover of the LORD.

Numbers 28:17 NKJV - 'And on the fifteenth day of this month [is] the feast; unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.

Numbers 28:18 NKJV - 'On the first day [you shall have] a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

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Numbers 28:25 NKJV - 'And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

Numbers 33:3 NKJV - They departed from Rameses in the first month, **on the fifteenth day of the first month**; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:42 NKJV - It [is] a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This [is] that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Why only baptized members of the Church of God keep Passover

Exodus 12:43 NKJV - And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This [is] the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it.

Exodus 12:48 NKJV - "And when a stranger dwells with you [and wants] to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.

Romans 2:28 NKJV - For he is not a Jew who [is one] outwardly, nor [is] circumcision that which [is] outward in the flesh;

Romans 2:29 NKJV - but [he is] a Jew who [is one] inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise [is] not from men but from God.

Romans 8:9 NKJV - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Acts 2:38 NKJV - Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 22:8 NKJV - And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare **the Passover** for us, that we may eat."

Luke 22:9 NKJV - So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"

Luke 22:10 NKJV - And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.

Luke 22:11 NKJV - "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat **the Passover** with My disciples?" '

Luke 22:12 NKJV - "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."

Luke 22:13 NKJV - So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and **they prepared the Passover.**

Luke 22:14 NKJV - When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

Luke 22:15 NKJV - Then He said to them, **"With [fervent] desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;**

1 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV - For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the [same] night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV - and when He had given thanks, He broke [it] and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV - In the same manner [He] also [took] the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink [it], in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:26 NKJV - For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:27 NKJV - Therefore 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.

1 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV - But **let a man examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:29 NKJV - For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1 Corinthians 11:30 NKJV - For this reason many [are] weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1 Corinthians 11:31 NKJV - For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1 Corinthians 11:32 NKJV - But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Lamentations 3:40 NKJV - Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD;

2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV - Examine yourselves [as to] whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

Galatians 6:4 NKJV - But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

From UCG President Rick Shabi's March 21, 2024 letter:
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Preparing for Passover

In light of the continually changing world in which we live, as we—the body of Christ, the Church of God—approach Passover, how very important it is that we are about our Father's business and doing what Peter admonished in 2 Peter 1:10 to make "our call and election sure."

Let us all prepare for Passover in a worthy manner. Humbly and wholeheartedly let's examine ourselves and ask God to "search us," to "know our hearts," revealing any wicked thoughts, ways or attitudes, asking Him sincerely to lead us "in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

We must honestly look at ourselves through the "eyes" of the Bible and by the Holy Spirit God has given us, seeking the purity that God expects us to develop in this life. Now is the time to be living the life that our King has commissioned us to live, as we committed at baptism.

Is there sexual immorality among us, including anything to do with pornography? Are there schisms among us, selfish ambitions, evil thoughts or plans, dissensions, contentions or thoughts of division? Is there complacency, hardening of the heart, bitterness, resentments, resistance to God or His work? Are there lusts of the flesh or eyes, or pride among us that can cause self-deceit and blind us to what we may really be doing? (See Galatians 5:19 and so many other verses.) God's Spirit and a commitment to Him that includes a yielded heart to "His will being done" are necessary if we are to overcome self and the world.

*Sin separates us from God we are told in Isaiah 59:1-3. Sin and the works of the flesh separate us from each other, as well. Sin separated the Pharisees from the Messiah they claimed they were waiting for. They were blinded by their pride and envy and did not—and could not—see the Christ. They hardened their hearts and rejected the Messiah. **Let's not any of us be like them.***

Isaiah 59:1 NKJV - Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

Isaiah 59:2 NKJV - But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden [His] face from you, So that He will not hear.

Isaiah 59:3 NKJV - For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.

What Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 23:23 AMP - "Woe to you, [self-righteous] scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you give a tenth (tithe) of your mint and dill and cumin [focusing on minor matters], and have neglected the weightier [more important moral and spiritual] provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the [primary] things you ought to have done without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:24 AMP - "You [spiritually] blind guides, **who strain out a gnat [consuming yourselves with miniscule matters] and swallow a camel [ignoring and violating God's precepts]!**

Matthew 23:25 AMP - "Woe to you, [self-righteous] scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but **inside** they are full of extortion and robbery and self-indulgence (unrestrained greed).

Matthew 23:26 AMP - "You [spiritually] blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the plate [**examine and change your inner self to conform to God's precepts**], so that the outside [your public life and deeds] may be clean also.

Matthew 23:27 AMP - "Woe to you, [self-righteous] scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which look beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

Matthew 23:28 AMP - "So you, also, outwardly seem to be just and upright to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Paul recognized he had sin within him... an apostle used mightily by God. And who will certainly be in God's kingdom!

We can relate to him.. And he can relate to us:

Romans 7:12 NKJV - Therefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

Romans 7:13 NKJV - Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

Romans 7:14 NKJV - For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Romans 7:15 NKJV - **For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.**

Romans 7:16 NKJV - If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that [it is] good.

Romans 7:17 NKJV - But now, [it is] no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Romans 7:18 NKJV - **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but [how] to perform what is good I do not find.**

Romans 7:19 NKJV - For the good that I will [to do], I do not do; but the evil I will not [to do], that I practice.

Romans 7:20 NKJV - Now if I do what I will not [to do], it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Romans 7:21 NKJV - I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

Romans 7:22 NKJV - For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

Romans 7:23 NKJV - But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 7:24 NKJV - **O wretched man that I am!** Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Romans 7:25 NKJV - I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Conclusion

After self examination we are ready for God to examine us and our heart:

Psalms 26:1 NLT - A psalm of David. Declare me innocent, O LORD, for I have acted with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

Psalms 26:2 NLT - Put me on trial, LORD, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart.

Psalms 26:3 NLT - For I am always aware of your unfailing love, and I have lived according to your truth.

Psalms 26:4 NLT - I do not spend time with liars or go along with hypocrites.

Psalms 26:5 NLT - I hate the gatherings of those who do evil, and I refuse to join in with the wicked.

Psalms 26:6 NLT - I wash my hands to declare my innocence. I come to your altar, O LORD,

Psalms 26:7 NLT - singing a song of thanksgiving and telling of all your wonders.

Psalms 26:8 NLT - I love your sanctuary, LORD, the place where your glorious presence dwells.

Psalms 26:9 NLT - Don't let me suffer the fate of sinners. Don't condemn me along with murderers.

Psalms 26:10 NLT - Their hands are dirty with evil schemes, and they constantly take bribes.

Psalms 26:11 NLT - But I am not like that; I live with integrity. So redeem me and show me mercy.

Psalms 26:12 NLT - Now I stand on solid ground, and I will publicly praise the LORD.