

Leavened Bread - Four Points to Consider This Week

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Introduction:

Why do we today still do what the bible says and put out leavening and leavened products? After all, don't many churches say that was the "old testament" and "done away"?

Specific Purpose of this Message:

1. To see being unleavened is not just an old testament teaching
2. To see that there are spiritual lessons to learn from the physical
3. To see that we need to examine ourselves and be committed to putting sin out
4. To give you some areas to examine in the next week during these days of unleavened bread.

Need:

2 Corinthians 13:5 RSV - **Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

Acts 17:11 KJV - These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

How did they receive the instruction?

- I. With readiness of mind ie "*the state of being ready or prepared, as for use or action* · willingness or eagerness to do something · ease or promptness"
- II. Searched the scriptures daily
 - A. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 KJV - Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
- III. Searched = G350 = ἀνακρίνω anakrínō, an-ak-ree'-no; from [G303](#) and [G2919](#); properly, to scrutinize, i.e. (by implication) investigate, interrogate, determine:—ask, question, discern, examine, judge, search.

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

- A. to investigate, examine, enquire into, scrutinise, sift, question
 1. specifically in a forensic sense of a judge to hold an investigation
 2. to interrogate, examine the accused or witnesses
- B. to judge of, estimate, determine (the excellence or defects of any person or thing)

First, some New Testament Scriptures and the spiritual lessons to learn

Matthew 16:6 KJV - Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware** of the **leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees**.

Matthew 16:11 KJV - How is it that ye do not understand that I spake [it] not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

Matthew 16:12 KJV - Then understood they how that he bade [them] not beware of the leaven of bread, but of **the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

The Pharisees and Sadducees were the primary religions of that day. They are not relevant today. But there are many religions that have assumed their mantle today that we need to beware of. We would refer to them as **mainstream Christianity**. Although they have many sincere followers, the next verses show Christ's criteria for judging them:

Matthew 15:1 KJV - Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 15:2 KJV - Why do thy disciples transgress the "tradition of the elders"? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Matthew 15:3 KJV - But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God** by your tradition?

1 John 3:4 KJV - Whosoever committeth **sin** transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**

Matthew 15:4 KJV - For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Matthew 15:5 KJV - But ye say, Whosoever shall say to [his] father or [his] mother, [It is] a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

Matthew 15:6 KJV - And honour not his father or his mother, [he shall be free]. **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**

Matthew 15:7 KJV - [Ye] hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Matthew 15:8 KJV - This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; **but their heart is far from me.**

Matthew 15:9 KJV - **But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.**

Matthew 15:10 KJV - And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

Matthew 15:11 KJV - Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

Matthew 15:12 KJV - Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the **Pharisees were offended**, after they heard this saying?

Matthew 15:13 KJV - But **he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.**

Matthew 15:14 KJV - Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

*Most major Christian religions teach the law is done way, that it doesn't apply anymore. They say all you have to do is "love". But do NOT connect love to keeping the commandments of God. But that is the teaching of MEN. It is not the truth. It is lawlessness. It is the same as what Sadducees and Pharisees were doing - **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.***

(So) Second we see that leaven is symbolic of sin that we must put out of our lives

"The Days of Unleavened Bread remind us that with God's help we must remove and avoid all sin—symbolized by leaven—and live genuinely by God's commandments in all areas of our life."
From UCG article on the Feast of Unleavened Bread

<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/gods-holy-day-plan-promise-hope-all-mankind/gods-holy-day-plan-promise-3>

Expositors Commentary:

*The Saviour's answer is just what was to be expected. Policy had no place in His plan. His kingdom was of the truth; and **whatever was not of truth must go**, be the consequences what they might. That system of traditionalism had its roots deeply and firmly fastened in the Jewish soil; its fibres were through it all; and to disturb it was to go against a feeling that was nothing less than national in its extent. But no matter: firmly, deeply, widely rooted though it was, it was not of God's planting, and therefore it cannot be let alone: "Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." It is for all ritualists, ancient and modern, all who teach for doctrines what are only commandments of men, seriously to ponder this most radical utterance by One Whose right it is to speak with an authority from which there is no appeal.*

John 17:17 KJV - Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.

John 1:1 KJV - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:4 KJV - In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:14 KJV - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 KJV - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Self Examination Question: How much are you studying the word of truth? Daily as the Bereans?

Third, we will see we need to put out all sin!

Today people seem to think that they can negotiate with God... and only keep the commandments they want to keep or that they think are valid.

Or maybe that because they are keeping more of God's commandments than people around them are, they are somehow "okay" and God will wink at their other sins.

1 Corinthians 5:6 KJV - Your glorying [is] not good. Know ye not that a **little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

What were they glorying about? That they could accept and "love" a person who was sinning?

1 Corinthians 5:1 KJV - It is reported commonly [that there is] fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 Corinthians 5:2 KJV - And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1 Corinthians 5:7 KJV - Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, **as ye are unleavened**. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1 Corinthians 5:8 KJV - Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, **neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth**.

1 Corinthians 5:9 KJV - I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1 Corinthians 5:10 KJV - Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

1 Corinthians 5:11 KJV - But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1 Corinthians 5:12 KJV - For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

1 Corinthians 5:13 KJV - But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

2 Corinthians 13:5 RSV - **Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2 Corinthians 13:6 RSV - I hope you will find out that we have not failed.

2 Corinthians 13:7 RSV - But we pray God that you may not do wrong--not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

2 Corinthians 13:8 RSV - For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

2 Corinthians 13:9 RSV - For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. What we pray for is your improvement.

Psalms 26:2 KJV - Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Psalms 119:59 KJV - I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Psalms 139:23 KJV - Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psalms 139:24 KJV - And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Lamentations 3:40 KJV - **Let us search and try our ways**, and turn again to the LORD.

Ezekiel 18:28 KJV - Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Haggai 1:5 KJV - Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways**.

Haggai 1:7 KJV - Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways**.

Fourth - Are we breaking God's laws?

We live in a society that is not God fearing:

2 Timothy 3:1 KJV - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 Timothy 3:2 KJV - For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:3 KJV - Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

2 Timothy 3:4 KJV - Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2 Timothy 3:5 KJV - Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.

Do we exalt our ideas above God's word. Do we say ... Well, I believe... that is contrary to God's word. I value our opinion above God's?

2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image...You shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

What do we put before God and obeying Him? Our job, our possessions - maybe living beyond our means so we don't feel we can afford to tithe, our family, a boyfriend or girlfriend, sports, a hobby, a TV show or video game - that takes time away from bible study and prayer?

3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

We need to guard our tongue. And we need to beware that we are not using euphemisms as substitutes for God or Jesus Christ's name. (Golly, jeepers, gosh, gee whiz, etc)

4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Are we careful not to work on the Sabbath? What about taking our own pleasure? Or shopping, or watching TV

Isaiah 58:13 NLT - "Keep the Sabbath day holy. Don't pursue your own interests on that day, but enjoy the Sabbath and speak of it with delight as the LORD's holy day. Honor the Sabbath in everything you do on that day, and don't follow your own desires or talk idly.

Isaiah 56:2 NKJV - Blessed [is] the man [who] does this, And the son of man [who] lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And keeps his hand from doing any evil."

Nehemiah 13:15 NKJV - In those days I saw [people] in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all [kinds of] burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned [them] about the day on which they were selling provisions.

Nehemiah 13:16 NKJV - Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold [them] on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 13:17 NKJV - Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing [is] this that you do, by which **you profane the Sabbath day?**

Nehemiah 13:19 NKJV - So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that they must not be opened till after the Sabbath. Then I posted [some] of my servants at the gates, [so that] no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day.

Nehemiah 13:20 NKJV - Now the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.

Nehemiah 13:22 NKJV - And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, [concerning] this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!

5. Honor your father and your mother.

6. You shall not murder.

Jesus to even hate is to murder. Do we treat people with love or do we put them down?
Not to mention Abortion...

7. You shall not commit adultery.

The world has become very lax in this. Pre-marital sex is expected and approved of.
Living together before marriage is the norm.
Other forms of sex have also become normalized and viewed as okay in this society

8. You shall not steal.

9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.

This society wants to take from those that have and give to those that don't work.

Conclusion:

Today we have seen:

1. being unleavened is not just an old testament teaching
2. that there are spiritual lessons to learn from the physical
3. that we need to examine ourselves and be committed to putting sin out
4. areas to examine in the next week during these days of unleavened bread.

By implementing these points in the next six days of these days of Unleavened bread we can put sin out of our lives and be more pleasing to God the Father and Jesus Christ!