

Our Passover: Christ

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When the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt on the night before their departure they were to prepare a lamb and eat all of it, with the blood sprinkled upon the door posts. They were to eat unleavened bread and take unleavened dough with them. When this was done the Lord assured them that he would pass over that house, but that all others would have the first-born slain. Then they were to observe annually that passover with the slaying and eating of the lamb with the unleavened bread which was to be eaten for a week following (Exodus 12:1, 27). They were to explain to the generations afterward that "It is the sacrifice of Jehovah's passover..." (v. 27). That was a type or shadow of Christ (Col. 2:16, 17). The spiritual fulfillment of this type is described in these words which are in a setting which tells us to rid ourselves of unrepentant sinners even as the Israelites left Egypt:

"For our passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ: wherefore 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 5:7, 8).

There is a tendency to consider the Lord's supper as the anti-type or substance of the Old Testament shadow. It is true that Jesus is the sacrifice and that he said of the supper, "this is my body" and "this is my blood." But the passage says that the unleavened bread is "sincerity and truth."

Our Passover Lamb, Christ, was without blemish or spot just as that original lamb was to be. He was "foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was manifested at the end of the times" (1 Pet. 1:19, 20). It was in God's eternal plan that Jesus should have

this role in our deliverance from sin. In the development of the plan he typified it with the passover and its continued observance through the generations of the Israelites.

Our passover has been slain once (Heb. 10:10). There is not an annual slaying in our observance as with the Israelites. But we do have communion, or participation, with the body and blood (1 Cor. 10:16); and this is to be observed weekly (Acts 20:7) until he comes (1 Cor. 11:26).

When dough for bread is allowed to remain open for a period of time it can become contamination with yeast spores from the air. With continual passing of this from one batch to another it can become so contaminated that it becomes the sourdough of the Canadian prospector. The church can become leavened with evil if we permit such unrepentant people to remain. The unwanted leaven of malice and wickedness can destroy the church. We need the new lump, and the maintenance of its purity, with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The feast of unleavened bread was to last for one week as it was observed each year. In the fulfillment of that shadow we see that it is a continuous life of sincerity and truth and is to last all of our lives. It is not an observance to be attended at convenient times. Nor should we think that it will be all right to let in a little contamination now and then; it will contaminate the whole lump. Just a little good will neither save a person nor take him to heaven. But it only takes a little bad to sell one's soul to the devil and to contaminate and destroy oneself and others about us.

