

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

Spring Cleaning

Exodus 12:15: Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

Preparing for Passover was the ultimate in spring cleaning! In obedience to the eternal commandment that God gave to the children of Israel to remove leaven (yeast) from their houses, every nook and cranny must be emptied, sorted and wiped in order to make sure that each dwelling place is free of **chametz (leavened products)** before Passover begins. Rabbinical Judaism has taken this single commandment and transformed it into a system that would weary the hardiest of women. All dishes, cutlery, pots and pans, and even dishrags used during the feast must be "Kosher for Passover."

The spiritual significance of this is readily detectable. Leaven is a type of sin that must be thoroughly purged from the believer's life since "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" Galatians 5:9. Yeast is a single-celled fungus that causes dough to rise by consuming the sugars and excreting carbon dioxide as a byproduct. And it doesn't take much yeast to start the process. Yeast is so pervasive that if dough is left on the counter, yeast will attach to the surface of the dough and then make its way throughout the whole loaf. And so it was of paramount importance that the house should be scoured for any traces of this insidious element.

At Passover, the Jewish People practice a beautiful custom called bedikat chametz (search for leaven). On the eve before Passover, the leader of the household, usually the father, holds a candle and guides his family around the house. With the lights extinguished, they search for any remnant of chametz (leavened products) by the light of this single candle. The children search every nook and cranny for crumbs of bread that the mother has carefully wrapped and hidden ahead of time. Each crumb of bread is found with exclamations of delight, "Oh! There it is! I found one!" This meaningful search continues until the very last crumb of leaven is removed. The next morning the crumbs along with all of the leaven found in the house are take out and burned.

Sin must not be allowed to thrive in the believer's life. With the help of the light of God's Word, we must search out every hiding place where sin may be lurking and bring every "crumb" of it to the fire, lest it find any room for advancement. May the Lord give us all the discernment to identify the devilish encroachments of sin!

Have a blessed day,

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing; and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17