

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Eight: The Feasts (1) The Sabbath and the Feasts of the Passover and Unleavened Bread

I. Overview:

The feasts in Leviticus 23 typify Christ as our rest and enjoyment. The weekly Sabbath signifies the rest that God's redeemed people enjoy with God and with one another. The principle of the Sabbath is that we should cease our work because God has done everything for us and has become everything for our enjoyment. The Feast of the Passover signifies Christ as our redemption to begin our enjoyment of God's salvation with God. The Feast of Unleavened Bread signifies Christ, who is without sin, for our enjoyment as a feast in a life apart from sin. Keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread typifies the purging away of all sinful things through the enjoyment of Christ as the sinless life supply. The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasting for seven days signifies that the entire course of our Christian life is a feast of unleavened bread, a feast without sin.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 –

A. What do the festivals in Leviticus signify and mean specifically?

The festivals are types of Christ as our rest and enjoyment. This indicates that in Leviticus, the issue of our service is the festivals. These festivals did not take place occasionally at certain times. On the contrary, they were appointed by God, ordained by Him. God ordained the festivals that His people might rest with Him and be joyful with Him, that they might enjoy all that He has provided for His redeemed people.

B. Explain the principle of the Sabbath.

The principle of the Sabbath is that working with the Lord requires that we learn how to rest with Him. Some may think that the significance of the Sabbath is merely to cease from work. The Bible emphasizes the fact that God rested on the seventh day. Genesis 2:2 says, "And on the seventh day God finished His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done."

Day 2 –

A. What is the divine principle?

It is a divine principle that God does not ask us to work until we have had enjoyment. God first supplies us with enjoyment. Then after a full enjoyment with Him and of Him, we may work together with Him. If we do not know how to have enjoyment with God and how to enjoy God Himself, we shall not know how to work with Him.

B. Explain not only with creation, redemption but also with enjoyment the Lord has accomplished.

The Lord has accomplished everything for redemption. After the completion of His redemption the Lord enjoyed the result. The Lord worked first and enjoyed later. We, however, enjoy first and work later. Concerning redemption and grace, we have nothing to do. Everything is finished. We simply enter into the Lord's accomplishment and have our rest. To receive the gospel is to enter into the work that the Lord has finished.

Day 3 –

A. How to prove that Christ is the reality of every positive thing to us?

Feasts are yearly, new moons monthly, Sabbaths weekly, and eating and drinking daily. Daily we eat and drink Christ, weekly we have completion and rest in Him, monthly we experience a new beginning in Him, and throughout the year He is our joy and enjoyment. Therefore, daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly Christ is to us the reality of every positive thing.

B. Brief the type of the Passover and its content.

The Passover is the initiation of our enjoyment of Christ, and typifies that Christ is the beginning of our enjoyment of Him that originates our spiritual life. In this feast the main enjoyments are the Passover lamb with its blood for redeeming and its flesh for fighting and walking, and the unleavened bread, signifying a sinless living.

Day 4 –

A. Why do we say the Passover portrayed in Exodus 12 being an all-inclusive type of Christ?

The Passover portrayed in Exodus 12 is an all-inclusive type of Christ as our redemption to begin our experience of God's salvation. The entire Passover is a type of Christ. Christ is not only the Passover lamb but also every aspect of the Passover. In order to be our Passover, He was sacrificed on the cross that we might be redeemed and reconcile to God.

B. Explain the three stages of the Feast of the Passover.

The Feast of the Passover was not completely fulfilled in the Old Testament. The Lord's table, which also is a feast, replaces and continues the Feast of the Passover. But not even this New Testament feast has been completely fulfilled; it will be fulfilled completely in the coming kingdom. This feast began in Exodus 12 and continued until the night in which the Lord Jesus replaced it with His table. This feast will not be fulfilled completely until the feast in the coming kingdom.

Day 5 –

A. What does the Feast of Unleavened Bread lasting for seven days signify and apply in our life?

The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasting for seven days signifies the entire course of our Christian life. The course of our Christian life is a feast of unleavened bread, a feast without sin. We have been redeemed from sin, and now the Redeemer, who is without sin, is the feast for our entire life. We should be enjoying rest, enjoying God, and enjoying our Redeemer, apart from sin, for our entire life.

B. How can we live a sinless life?

In ourselves we cannot possibly have this kind of living. However, in Christ it is possible to live a sinless life. We have been put into Christ, and now we must learn to live in Christ and by Christ. Then He will become our unleavened life supply. He will become the source, the fountain, of a sinless life and living. Because we have such a source and supply, it is possible for us to live a sinless life.

Day 6 –

A. What should we do in order to live a sinless life?

In order to live a life without sin, we must daily eat Christ as unleavened bread. Since we are what we eat, if we eat unleavened bread, we will eventually become constituted with unleavened bread. Then we will live an unleavened life. As the unleavened bread, Christ is for us to live a pure church life. In the church there should be no leaven, which in the Bible signifies all the negative things.

B. What is the significance of the presenting of an offering by fire to God for seven days?

For seven days the people were to present an offering by fire to God. This signifies that we offer Christ as food to God continually through the full course of our Christian life. Christ is our food. After we enjoy Him as food, He becomes our offering to God to be food for God. If during a week we take Christ as our unleavened food, as our life supply apart from sin, and that we come to the table with Him, then we offer to God for His satisfaction the One we have been enjoying as our food. In so doing, we experience Him as our enjoyment.

III. Conclusion:

The Feast of Unleavened Bread signifies Christ, who is without sin, for our enjoyment as a feast in a life apart from sin. Since the Feast of Unleavened Bread closely followed the Feast of the Passover, it showed that we should live a life without sin once we get saved. The only way to eliminate sin is to daily eat Christ as the crucified, resurrected, and sinless life, which is able to purify us. The Feast of Unleavened Bread lasting for seven days signifies the entire course of our Christian life, which is a feast of unleavened bread, a feast without sin. Today at the Lord's table we make a display to the entire universe that each day of the week we take Christ as our unleavened bread, as our life supply apart from sin, and that we come to the table with Him. First Corinthians 5:8 reveals that Christ is the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. As the unleavened bread, Christ is for us to live a pure church life. In the church there should be no leaven, which signifies all the negative things such as wrong doctrines and practices, evil deeds, and sinful things.