

What It Means to be Dead to Sin but Alive to Christ

Roger Kendall—March 9, 2019

Good evening to everyone, happy Sabbath to you. I'd like to welcome you once again to the Christian Biblical Church of God Friday night online fellowship meeting. This meeting goes out to all the brethren around the world, Canada, Europe, United Kingdom, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico.

It's a pleasure to be joining you all here on this Sabbath day, and what a joy it is to see the Sabbath Day come to us. I'll just say, good morning, good afternoon and good evening to all those of you who around this world are coming into this meeting. It's a pleasure to be here and just thankful for the technology that we have that we can really truly join together on the Sabbath Day and rejoice, fellowship and hear a message preached.

The message I'm giving tonight is going to be focusing on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but primarily focusing on *what it means to be dead to sin, but alive to Christ*. Now, this has been a phrase in the Scriptures that has kind of intrigued me for many, many years. I wanted to go more into an in depth search of this, and tonight I'm going to bring you the results of that Bible study and putting it together, because it's a very interesting phrase or concept when we think about it.

To begin with, in just five weeks, we'll be keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which will come to us April 19th. We all know what it pictures: the putting out or the purging of sin from us. Of course, leaven represents sin during this time, but also it represents the 'putting in,' *eating the unleavened bread of Jesus Christ*.

Of course, we're to eat unleavened bread for seven days; the Feast is a seven day Feast. We can read about that both in Lev. 23 and Exo. 12:15. For the Israelites, this meant coming out of the bondage of Egypt, the Exodus from the type of sin in Egypt. For us, it represents our coming out of sin, putting sin away. But, also, eating the unleavened bread represents putting Jesus Christ *into* our very being, *into* our very lives.

Psalm 34:8: "O **taste and see** that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."

This expression, "...taste and see..." for us represents an element of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because we are to taste and eat of the Word of God, and also to take in the unleavened bread representing Jesus Christ. In so doing we digest *spiritually* the very Word of God, and by that we actually make it a part of us so that we're able to

think and to act and do those things by the Word of God which is now written upon our heart and mind.

Christ being the Word, we can read that in John 1:1 that Christ is the Word, and therefore, we are in a sense His *spiritual food* for us.

Verse 13: "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it" (vs 13-14).

This kind of reflects on how we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and that we depart from evil, that is putting out the leaven, putting out the sin. But it also says to again to "...do good..." So, doing good deeds is symbolically putting in the unleavened bread of Jesus Christ, and to seek peace and to pursue it with diligence, with great effort.

Paul admonishes us to put out the old leaven, and keep the Feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and Truth.

1-Corinthians 5:6: "Your glorying *is* not good...."

You know the background here in the Corinthian Church where they allowed a man to be with them who was living with his mother-in-law in all that sin. The Corinthian Church was kind of glorying in that. Paul said that's not good.

"...Don't you know that a little leaven, leavens the whole lump? Therefore, purge out the old leaven, so that you may become a new lump, *even* as you are unleavened...." (vs 6-7).

Paul explained the fact that they had de-leavened their homes, and now he's saying, take on the true unleavened bread and be yourself unleavened.

"...For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us" (v 7). *Christ died for us*; He paid the penalty of our sins, and He reconciles us to God the Father. He redeems us! He justifies us! He does all of this. And for this, Christ says, 'Now be unleavened.'

Verse 8: "For this reason, let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, nor with *the* leaven of malice and wickedness, but with *the* unleavened bread of sincerity and Truth."

Interesting phrase: describing the unleavened bread as being sincere and of Truth. This word *sincere* I'd like to digress a moment. This word in English comes from the Latin meaning *without wax*. Interesting concept. If a person had a vase or a piece of pottery, that was imperfect, it had a crack in it or a blemish, they would take wax and

they would cover the crack, seal it, and then they would polish it, and the imperfection would not be visible.

So when you say, sincere without wax, what you're referring to is the fact that you now have something that's authentic, that's perfect, it's genuine and pure. So, all of these elements can reflect upon really what the unleavened bread represents: the righteousness of Christ and Truth. It's interesting to think about the words and the derivation, and how it applies to the unleavened bread.

John 14:6 says that Jesus Christ is "...the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." ***Indeed, we become a new lump without sin by Christ dwelling in us!***

John 6:47: "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me has eternal life. I AM the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died. This is the Bread, which comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die.... [this is *spiritual* Bread, the true Bread from heaven] ...I AM the living Bread, which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this Bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (vs 47-51)—*reflecting on the Passover service that we have, and also reflecting on His sacrifice!*

Verse 52: "Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, 'How is He able to give us *His* flesh to eat?'" *They were confounded by this!* They were truly amazed and wondering what He meant. They didn't understand the spiritual intent behind it.

Verse 53: "Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.'"

Reflecting on the Passover, and the fact that He is the One Who gave His life, shed His blood and His body to pay for the penalty of our sins, so we might be redeemed and be reconciled to God.

Verse 54: "The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him" (vs 54-56).

So, you can see the attributes of what it means to partake of the Passover. But also this could apply indirectly obviously to the days of unleavened Bread when we eat of the unleavened bread.

As we eat unleavened bread during the Days of Unleavened Bread, during these days, it pictures

us replacing the old man. The carnal, selfish flesh that resides in each of us. Replace the old man with the *new man*: Jesus Christ. That we can now because of His Holy Spirit in us, that we can now walk into newness of life, and truly walk in righteousness.

As we continue to build on this subject we'll see where Paul gives us greater understanding of what this is about.

Ephesians 4:17: "So then, I declare and testify this in *the* Lord that you are no longer to walk even as the rest of *the* Gentiles are walking, ***in the vanity of their minds...*** [referring to the sinful nature of Satan the devil and the world] ...having *their* understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts" (vs 17-18).

Christ went through that in Matt.13, you can read where He spoke about how the heart is glossed over with wax and with fat. They're not able to perceive and understand.

Verse 19: "They have cast off all feelings, *and* have given themselves up to licentiousness, to work every uncleanness with insatiable desire. But you have not so learned Christ; if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, according to *the Truth* in Jesus: That concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind... [the mind of Jesus Christ] ...and that you put on the new man, which according to God is created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth" (vs 19-24).

I'd like to tie in some other Scriptures here, which also reflect this concept, this idea of putting off the old man and putting in Jesus Christ.

Romans 13:14: "But *let us* put on the Lord Jesus Christ... [like as a garment, like putting it on a covering] ...and not make any allowance for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." We put ***off*** the old man and we put ***on*** Christ so we can now walk in newness of life.

We know that there are seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That can be significant in many different ways. But the #7 is significant, *referring to completeness or perfection!* We reflect on that relative to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The seven days reflects the idea that over time, that the Church of God, the people of God, will be able to be completely purified and cleansed, and to be made perfect in every way of God by putting off all sin from them and come to perfection.

This is what Christ is doing now with the Church, *He is perfecting it!* He is helping us through the Spirit into the Word of God so that we can be

washed and cleansed from our sins. Referring to husband's first:

Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it... [that's an incredible comparison in regard to husbands] ...so that He [Christ] might sanctify it... [to make it Holy, to cleanse it, and also to separate it from the world, to be purified] ...having cleansed *it* with the washing of the water by *the Word*" (vs 25-26).

So, we see now that by reading the words of God, by incorporating and living by it, that we're being cleansed and purified,

Verse 27: "That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame."

When is this going to be completed or finished? We look at the seven day completion process, it will be completed when we are resurrected and on the Sea of Glass, and are there to participate in the marriage of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:7: "Let us be glad and shout with joy; and let us give glory to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.... [with the help of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Savior, our High Priest] ...And it was granted to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, pure and bright; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints" (vs 7-8).

So, this purification process has been completed, and the Church is ready to be married to Jesus Christ. A major problem we have as God's people is that as Christians we still have *the law of sin and death* dwelling within us. The sinful carnal nature, which is contrary to loving, serving and obeying God. It is enmity against God, and is a force that can lead an individual to commit sin and break the Law and the commandments of God.

Romans 8:6: "For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace... [here we see the contrast between leavened bread and the unleavened Bread of Jesus Christ] ...because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God; neither indeed can it *be*" (vs 6-7).

Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

This is the way of the carnal mind. The way of sin and all of dreadful simple acts that come out of the carnal mind. The Apostle Paul clearly recognized this evil nature within, resulting in a simple power. In fact, he referred to it as being a law

within us. He laments this condition, but then tells us the solution.

Rom. 7 is a profound chapter, I think, because it really reflects upon the fact that the battles of sin was still going on with the Apostle Paul, even after being 20 to 30 years as an apostle for Jesus Christ. You should read this entire section regarding the indwelling of sin:

Romans 7:18: "Because I fully understand that there is not dwelling within me—that is, within my fleshly being—*any* good. For the desire to do good is present within me; but how to work out that which is good, I do not find. For the good that I desire to do, I am not doing; but the evil that I do not desire to do, this I am doing. But if I do what I do not desire to do, I am no longer working it out myself, but sin *that is* dwelling within me. Consequently, I find this law *in my members*, that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the Law of God according to the inward man" (vs 18-22)—*being Jesus Christ!*

Verse 23: "But I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is within my own members. O *what a* wretched man I am! Who shall save me from the body of this death?... [here Paul tells us the answer] ...I thank God *for His salvation* through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this, on the one hand, I myself serve the Law of God with *my* mind; but on the other hand, with the flesh, *I serve* the law of sin" (vs 23-25).

He goes on in Rom. 8 to reflect on what Christ is doing and is doing for us.

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus... [that we are one with Christ through baptisms, and receiving God's Spirit] ...who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit; because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death" (vs 1-2).

Praise God and give thanks that we can read this, and have confidence that we are not only believing in Christ, but that we are believing and doing and following and striving to overcome sin in all it's ways.

Verse 3: "But what was impossible for a lot to do in that it was weak through the flesh, God having sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. And for sin condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (vs 3-4).

So, you can see the battle and difficulties there. But Jesus Christ saves us from sin through the

giving of His blood—shedding His blood. And also through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit that *gives us the power now to walk in newness of life!* We can walk in the way that pleases God, we can obey God.

Now we can come to love God and serve God with a pure heart. Christ dwells in us, we are justified before God the Father. In that the Father imputes Christ's righteousness to us, so that He does not condemn us. He looks upon us as His begotten children and looking forward to the time when we can be born into His Family. Indeed, it is Christ blood that cleanses us from all sin upon repentance, upon focusing on the fact that He is our Redeemer.

1-John 1—I want to put this where we can show that sin is not completely washed away. The man of sin did not die in the water grave, but that we do have the problem of a battle with sin in our lives.

1-John 1:7: “However, if we walk in the Light...”

- the way of God
- the Truth of God
- obeying God's commandments
- loving God
- seeking the Truth

All of that is reflected in that!

“...as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves... [just as we just read in Rom. 7] ...and the Truth is not in us. If we **confess our own sins...**” (vs 7-9)—repent and have daily prayer—He forgives us of our sins. God truly washes away our sins, He forgives us!

“...He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v 9). *So, brethren, we can truly rejoice and be thankful for this very thing!*

Rom. 6:11 is the focus of the topic tonight. But now with that background, now we can better appreciate more of what with Paul is writing here.

Romans 6:11: “In the same way also, you should indeed **reckon** yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

I've always been intrigued by this Scripture in terms of being dead to sin. This 'reckon' is, *you ought to be*. It doesn't mean that you are, but you ought to be. Let's keep that in mind as we go forward. It doesn't say you are dead to sin, but that you ought to be, but alive to God through Christ in us and through the unleavened bread that we consume symbolically.

Let's take this in context, and get a better overview here of what Paul is talking about here.

Romans 6:8: “Now, **if we died together with Christ...**” That happened in baptism, because we were conjoined into the death of Jesus Christ, when we went into the watery grave.

“...**we believe that we shall also live with Him**” (v 8). Why? We died to sin in the watery grave and rose out of that watery grave in newness of life. Then by the laying on of hands, we receive the precious gift of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 9: “Knowing that Christ, having been raised from *the* dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also” (vs 9-11).

What Paul is saying is that because of these events in your life, “...you should indeed reckon... [you ought to be considering.] ...yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof. Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God” (vs 11-13).

What this verse is saying in context, is that since we have died together with Jesus Christ in baptism, being co joined with His death, then we should not consider ourselves being dead to the appeal into the power of the old man, carnal flesh, that is in us. But now made alive by the in-dwelling of Jesus Christ, so that we can now walk in righteousness. But the reason is that we no longer yield ourselves to the way of sin. *We yield ourselves to God!*

I'd like to read to you the translation for Romans 6:11 from *The Living Bible*. This is not a translation of the Truth, but it gives clarity of the expression of what this verse really means. So, very simple, one line from the Living Bible:

Romans 6:11 (*LB*): “So look upon your old sinful nature as dead and unresponsive to sin, and instead be alive to God, alert to Him through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

This idea of being unresponsive to sin, that is what we are to grow in. We are to become less and less responsive to sin and ways of evil thoughts and things that may enter into our minds.

Peter focused on this very same thought. I want to read this sentence to show that Peter also expressed that very same concept of being dead to sin.

1-Peter 2:24: “Who Himself bore our sins within His own body on the tree, so that **we, being dead to sins, may live unto righteousness**; by Whose stripes you were healed.”

Paul is also referring to the fact that we should strive to live in righteousness, because Christ our Savior God is in us.

Galatians 2:19: “For I, through law, died to *works of law*, in order that I may live to God. I have been crucified with Christ...” (vs 19-20).

Through baptism and through the fact that our sins were nailed to the cross, they’re washed away. That kind of flesh was crucified with Christ.

“...yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me. For *the life* that I am now living in *the flesh*, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (v 20).

So, because Christ died for us, and for all that He did to save us from our sins, we should strive to be perfect, as God the Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect.” *That’s quite a goal!* That’s quite a thing to shoot for, to work for! *That indeed is our goal!* That is an expression really of being completely cleansed of sin.

1-Peter 1:15: “But according as He Who has called you *is Holy*, you yourselves also be Holy in all *your* conduct... [will truly be representing the righteousness of Christ, the way of living] ...for it is written, ‘You be Holy because I am Holy’” (vs 15-16).

How do we achieve that? This is something that is very intriguing, again to put away the way of the flesh, is to put away the sinful inward nature that we have. And the next several Scriptures were going to look at now, point out that through the indwelling of Jesus Christ, and by taking on His very mind, character and righteousness, that we are able to again to actually mortify the flesh and become dead to sin through Him, *spiritual speaking*.

As we grow in conversion year-by-year, we grow and become more like Christ in His mind and His purpose, then sin should have less and less effect on us.

Romans 8:9: “However, you are not in *the flesh*, but in *the Spirit*, **if** *the Spirit of God* is indeed dwelling within you. But **if** anyone does not have *the Spirit of Christ*, he does not belong to Him.”

This truly shows who is a true believer and servant and disciple of Jesus Christ, that His Spirit is dwelling in that person.

Verse 10: “But **if** Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Now, if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the dead* is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the dead* will also quicken... [make alive] ...your mortal bodies...” (vs 10-11).

That is now. That’s not talking about the resurrection that will make you alive over time.

“...because of His Spirit that dwells within you. So then, brethren, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to *the flesh*; because if you are living according to *the flesh*, you shall die; but if by *the Spirit* you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live. For as many as are led by *the Spirit of God*, these are *the sons of God*” (vs 11-14).

This is expressing that we are to mortify the very flesh, the very deeds of the flesh within us. Again our main spiritual battle is against the sin, focusing primarily upon overcoming the flesh. Satan is our enemy, the world is our enemy, but indeed when we look at our immediate focus as we grow we see this flesh being the sin within.

I remember seeing a cartoon many, many years ago. A one liner Pogo cartoonist, and one time he said he was talking to his friend there. He said, I met the enemy and he is us. Indeed within us there is an enemy, and we need to sequester and test out that flesh that is in us. How do we do this? *By mortifying the sinful self and the evil deeds of the flesh and building in it’s place!*

How’s the best way to *overcome a bad habit*? Replace it with something new:

- that’s right
- that’s good
- that’s perfect

And we do that when we take in the mind the very righteous character of Jesus Christ!

Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus.” *Here we have the mind of Christ dwelling within us!*

Isaiah 55:8: “‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (vs 8-9).

This is where we begin with repentance. But then we are to close the gap. We are to come to more and more to think like God the Father and Jesus Christ, by the indwelling of God’s Spirit, and to act upon that mind so that we can live righteously.

Let's give another analogy. How's the best way to get air out of a bottle? Now you might say that the air is symbolic of the leaven that puffs up. How do you get rid of the air out of a bottle? *The best way to do that is to fill it with water!* You put in the water, water being symbolic of the Holy Spirit. So you can see that you can force out the air by putting the water in, and therefore, you expel the air.

Well the same principle applies for us. That is the more we are filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ, the more we're going to be able to overcome the workings of the flesh.

Ephesians 4:12: "For the perfecting of the saints... [referring to the work of the ministry] ...for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ... [to build up the Body of Christ] ...until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God... [our goal]: ...unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (vs 12-13).

We're to fill the bottle with water. We're to fill our bodies with Jesus Christ. Our soul and our mind our very being, so we can truly put out the old and put in the new. We battle against the sin within. Let's read of the battle that we fight:

Galatians 5:16: "Now *this* I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these things are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do those things you wish to do.... [tie in with Rom. 7] ...But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under works of law. Now, the works of the flesh are manifest..." (vs 16-19). *You can read them!*

Verse 21: "...that those who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit..." (vs 21-22).

Now here is what we're replacing, the elements of the flesh, putting in the fruits of God's Spirit. These fruits of God Spirit are the very essence of God's character, the character of Christ—the very essence of what God is. We're going to put in these elements including;

"...is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law. But those who are Christ's have crucified... [again}the flesh with its passions and lusts. **If we live by the Spirit, we should also be walking by the Spirit**" (vs 22-25).

Here it clearly shows that we must commit our lives to getting rid of the burden of sin; of the thoughts and the elements of sin out of our lives, by putting in the new man Jesus Christ. Especially to have the fruit of self-control, having the mind of

Christ, so that we can make right decisions. So that we do not let our emotions on the various situations in life, cause us to go the way of the sinful nature.

Colossians 3:1: "Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.... [to fix and have your mind on Christ] ...Set your affection on the things that are above, and not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died... [in the watery grave of baptism] ...and your life has been hid together with Christ in God. When Christ, **Who is our life**, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members, which are on earth: sexual immorality, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, among whom you also once walked, when you were living in these things. But now, you should also put off all these things: wrath, indignation, malice, blasphemy, and foul language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man together with his deeds, and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him Who created him" (vs 1-10).

Verse 12: "Put on then, as the elect of God, Holy and beloved... [the qualities and characteristics of Christ]: ...deep inner affections, kindness, humility, meekness and long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so also you should forgive. And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" (vs 12-14).

So, we can truly rejoice in these things that we can read, that we can overcome body of sin with Christ in us—His mind and purpose—and that is our focus. We should come to hate sin like God hates sin, and not allow the temptations and the pull of the flesh to have any power or influence over us. For this is the struggle, because of the influence. Because the influence is strong and in many cases in our thoughts and conduct.

But this requires that we have a true understanding of Godly sorrow and true repentance toward sin. We must have a strong passion, if you will. Longing to overthrow all aspects of sin as Paul brings out in 2-Cor. 7. This is a very interesting section dealing with repentance, the deep desire that we all should have to repent before God and truly cast off all sin.

2-Corinthians 7:9: "And so I rejoice—not because you were caused to sorrow, but because you sorrowed unto repentance; for you sorrowed in a Godly manner, so that you were not injured by us in

any way. For sorrow unto repentance before God works out salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world works out death. For see how this very thing—your personal sorrow before God—brought about such earnestness in you! And, *what* a defense, and *what* indignation, and fear, and vehement desire, and zeal, and vengeance! In every way you have proved yourselves to be pure in the matter” (vs 9-11).

Truly felt heartfelt repentance then is the key element to replacing the old man and recognizing the horrific elements of what sin is and what it represents. So now by changing our lives by letting Christ in us, we can now love God from the heart. That we can now keep His laws and commandments. Not because we have to, but because we truly love God from the heart and we desire to be like He is. For He is Holy, righteous and good. That is what we need to continue to strive for.

For we know brethren, conversion is a process. It takes time over time to change a lump of coal into a son of God. It takes place over time. The same way, dying to sin and having the mind of Christ takes place over time. The process that begins with baptism it's completed when we physically die and are converted into Spirit.

Jesus Christ was the only human being the very Son of God, God incarnate, Who was completely dead to sin and never allowed the pull of sin, the temptations of sin, to have an affect on Him, even though He had the law of sin dwelling within Him. Christ is our champion, He is Who we are to copy, to become like He is.

Hebrews 4:14: “Having, therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*. For we do not have a High Priest Who cannot empathize with our **weaknesses**... [physical and spiritual] ...but *One Who* was tempted in all things according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; yet, *He was* without sin. Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (vs 14-16).

How does Christ accomplish that? *Through the Spirit!* He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and He obeyed God in all things. He stayed close to God in prayer. He also always did the Father's will. With the Word of God, He overcame temptation.

We can see that example in Matt. 4 where He faced Satan. And He used the Word of God to overcome the wiles of Satan the devil. His mind was fixed on saving us and saving all mankind. Not on Himself. He endured through the beatings, the scourging, the crucifixion and the dying, because of

His faith and trust in God the Father, His Father in heaven.

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entraps us; *and* let us run the race set before us with endurance.... [Christ had endurance; He endured all the pain and stress; He died for us] ...having *our minds* fixed on Jesus... [fixed, focused on, actually recognizing that He is] ...the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross....” (vs 1-2).

He didn't think about Himself, but the joy that thousands and millions of human beings could be born into the Family of God if He would complete His course of dying for man and for the joy that lay ahead of Him!

“...*although* He despised *the* shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of God. Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds. You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin” (vs 2-4).

We are reminded that we do struggle against sin. But God has given us the means. He's given us the power to accomplish the overthrow of sin in our lives through His Holy Spirit through His Word, and also if we follow the example of Jesus Christ holding fast in our faith and trust in God. Also because He's written His Word and His Laws upon our heart and upon our mind.

This is one of the weapons that we need to focus on; not weapons but *the means* where we can overcome sin.

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the* flesh... [yes, we're physical, we need to eat and breathe air] ...we do not war according to *the* flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal...” (vs 3-4).

They're not physical in that sense, they're spiritual. We have the Word of God, we have the Spirit of God, we have Christ in us. These are the weapons that we have.

“...but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds” (v 4).

It's really focusing on the sin within isn't it? The sin of pride, the sin of envy, of jealousy, of lust, perversion in every way. The strongholds that can be entrenched in us, if we do not break them and cast them out.

Verse 5: “Casting down... [here's what we do] ...*vain* imaginations... [every wrong and false thinking process which is of this world of Satan the

devil] ...and every high thing... [every prideful arrogant and conceited thing] ...that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ.”

That’s quite a goal! That’s quite a thing we need to think about. To bring every thought into the obedience of Christ. And yet, God gives us the means to do so, we just have to apply ourselves. This is what we struggle against daily. Yet, we keep working at it, working strong. We must do our part, providing the will, the desire in our heart to dedicate and commit our lives to Jesus Christ and God the Father.

That requires work, diligence, day by day. That’s 24/7 we focus on God. So, we can keep growing in spirit. That we can keep practicing righteousness, so it becomes a part of us.

- to study His Word
- to stay close to God in prayer
- to humble ourselves
- to be keep our eyes focused on the Kingdom of God
- to keep our eyes focused on our journey

Where every word in us is practicing and doing it faithfully!

1-Thessalonians 5:21: “Prove all things... [establish Truth] ...Hold fast to *that which* is good.... [embrace it and live by it] ...Abstain from every form of wickedness. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your entire spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (vs 21-23). *These are the things we need to focus on!*

- Are we truly hungering and thirsting for Christ’s righteousness, as we eat and consume the unleavened bread?
- Are we truly, daily, eating upon words of Jesus Christ.

John 6:63: “...The words that I speak to you, *they* are Spirit and *they* are Life.”

We must continue to yield our lives to Jesus Christ and God the Father in every aspect of the way we live. We are to love God with all of our heart soul and being.

Mark 12:30: “‘And you shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is the* first commandment. And *the* second is like this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’...” (vs 30-31). *We need to practice that! We need to think about these things!*

How do we really implement that? The more we implement that in each of our lives, and yield to God and submit to His will, then indeed we will be winning the battle against the sin that is within us.

Colossians 3:16: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And *in everything*—whatever you do in word or in deed—*do* all in *the* name of *the* Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and *the* Father by Him” (vs 16-17).

The last element I want to mentioned is pride. Pride is one of the biggest stumbling blocks within us that we need to eliminate. Pride, arrogance, conceitedness, self-aggrandizement, however we want to put it, we must yield to God in humility, realizing that of ourselves that we can do no good thing. Know that of ourselves we are nothing. But with Christ in us we can do all things and in due time He will exalt us.

James 4:6. But He [God] gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, ‘God sets Himself against *the* proud, but He gives grace to *the* humble.’ Therefore, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (vs 6-7). *Powerful Scripture!* If we submit to God, Satan has no interest in us because he knows we have Christ in us!

Verse 8: “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners, and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded! Be grieved and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into grieving, and *your* joy into mourning. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you” (vs 8-10).

In due time Christ will exalt us in His Family and we will have glory as Jesus Christ has glory.

To conclude, I hope this message has helped you to understand, as it has myself as I prepare this message, what it means to die to sin, yet, to be alive to Jesus Christ. The lesson of the Feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us that we are to put away all sin from us, to become a new lump in Jesus Christ.

But because we have the law of sin and death still within us, which we fight against daily, we then are not completely yet dead to sin. But being dead to sin means to continue to mortify the flesh. It is a process that takes place overtime as we grow in the mind of Christ. As we grow in righteousness and of the Truth of God. The more we allow Christ to live in us, to guide our thoughts, our actions, our conduct, by what is represented by eating the unleavened bread, then the death of sin will be taking place.

The process is complete, when we physically die and are raised as spirit in the resurrection. How great and wonderful God is. He is preserving us now, protecting and watching over us because He sees the future, He sees us as future children in the Family of God. How wonderful and how great that's going to be when the Kingdom of God, when we will be there the Sea of Glass, there will be no more sin.

Revelation 21:3: "And I heard a great voice from heaven say, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men; and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God"—*because sin is no more!* Sin has been eliminated. We're talking about the righteous Spirit of God and the Kingdom of God.

Verse 4: "And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and *there* shall not be anymore death, or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things... [the way of sin, the way of death] ...have passed away."

Let us rejoice in God's Word, and I do pray and hope that you will have a pleasant, joyful and blessed Sabbath!

Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 34:8, 13-14
- 2) 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- 3) John 14:6
- 4) John 6:47-56
- 5) Ephesians 4:17-24
- 6) Romans 13:14
- 7) Ephesians 5:25-27
- 8) Revelation 19:7-8
- 9) Romans 8:6-7
- 10) Jeremiah 17:9
- 11) Romans 7:18-25
- 12) Romans 8:1-4
- 13) 1 John 1:7-9
- 14) Romans 6:11, 8-13
- 15) 1 Peter 2:24
- 16) Galatians 2:19-20
- 17) Matthew 5:48
- 18) 1 Peter 1:15-16
- 19) Romans 8:9-14
- 20) Philippians 2:5
- 21) Isaiah 55:8-9
- 22) Ephesians 4:12-13
- 23) Galatians 5:16-19, 21-25
- 24) Colossians 3:1-10, 12-14
- 25) 2 Corinthians 7:9-11
- 26) Hebrews 4:14-16
- 27) Hebrews 12:1-4

- 28) 2 Corinthians 19:3-5
- 29) 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23
- 30) John 6:63
- 31) Mark 12:30-31
- 32) Colossians 3:16-17
- 33) James 4:6-10
- 34) Revelation 21:3-4

Scripture referenced, not quoted:

- Leviticus 23
- Exodus 12:15
- John 1:1
- Matthew 13; 4

RK:po/bo
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