

Leviticus: Living Life at the Second Fork

Leviticus 23

“Rest Thee, part 3: Matching My Attitude to My Attitude”

September 7, 2025

Titus 2:11-15 It is the “grace of God” that teaches “us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age...”

Leviticus 23:5-8 The Israelites were to eat unleavened bread for the seven days following Passover.

Exodus 12:15-20 Twice told, the penalty for eating “anything leavened” was to be “cut off” from Israel, a penalty usually meaning death.

Exodus 12:33,34 They left Israel in haste, before the dough had had a chance to rise.

Leaven (yeast) breaks down the sugars in the dough, produces gas bubbles, and makes the dough rise. It has a corrupting, destructive effect on the constituents of the mixture. God’s Word uses leaven as a picture of sin and wickedness. See **Matthew 16:11,12; Mark 8:15**

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, for Israel, represented purity to God, their homes having been spared the death of the firstborn, under the blood of the Passover lamb, and the haste with which they had left Egypt behind.

This pictures for us the necessity of holiness after salvation by our Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, being set apart from sin, and unto God, and the haste with which we are to leave our pre-Christ life behind.

Unlike Israel, there is no death penalty for not doing this exactly right and immediately. God grows us by His grace. It is important for us to realize that our fellow believers are in different stages of their growth. It is also important for us to realize that being under His grace is no excuse to refuse to grow. As an example, look to the brethren in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 1:2 “To the church of God which is at Corinth” Paul is writing to believers.

“to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling” There is a positional sanctification of every believer, set apart unto God, as one of His children, seated in the Heavenlies. There is a

progressive sanctification, whereby we as believers are growing in our faith and obedience on a daily basis. And there is an ultimate sanctification, when we enter the very presence of God upon death or rapture.

1:3 “Grace to you” God deals with us in grace.

3:1 These believers had not grown; they were still “infants in Christ.”

3:2 Their spiritual growth was stunted.

3:3 “jealousy and strife” were the hallmarks that they were still living like men of the flesh, not saved people. Yet, they were saved.

5:1-3 One of their number was engaged in high-handed rebellion against a clear moral prohibition. The remainder of them were sinning by celebrating his sin, not mourning over it.

5:4-5 Paul was turning that man over to Satan, still with the expectation of salvation for his spirit at the judgement seat of Christ.

5:6 “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?” Sin is like yeast in dough; it starts out small, and grows exponentially.

5:7 “you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed [for us KJV].” The believer is pure, by position, but not necessarily in behavior, because we have entered the feast of unleavened bread after our Passover Lamb died for us.

5:8 “Therefore let us celebrate the feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” We are in the feast. Even though God rarely uses the death penalty, there is nevertheless a certain discipline to be expected for refusal to grow. Sincerity = purity of motive. We serve God *not to get saved, nor to prove we are saved*. We serve Him from love and appreciation.

6:9 “...unrighteous (adikos)...” i.e., not justified by faith in Jesus

6:11 “... you were justified (dikaioo)...” i.e., declared righteous upon faith in Jesus. It is possible for a justified individual to appear unjustified to us. We must accept that God is giving that person grace in which to grow.

Ephesians 4:17-24 We are celebrating the feast of unleavened bread when we grow by putting off our “old self” and put on our “new self.” This only happens when the “spirit” of our “mind” is renewed in the grace and truth that is to be found only in Jesus. “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)