

“THE GREATEST LEAVEN”

By Waema James Mutulu

March 27, 2008

Every year, come the 14th day of the first month of the Biblical year, in the evening of that day, we of the true church of God do sit at table with Christ and partake of the Passover.

This is the same day, when Christ and the first century apostles sat at table, partaking of the same – see Luke. 22:14

It is the same day when the Israelites in Egypt per took of it – see Ex. 12:6.

This is the day when Christ our Passover lamb was killed – see – 1Cor. 5:7.

Am not trying to talk about Passover here, but rather, laying the basis of our message about the greatest leaven. We all know that, Christ was killed because of us, yes, because of our sins.

But if we may ask ourselves some question. “What connection is there between Christ being killed and our sins?”.

We know that Christ came proclaiming news about the coming kingdom of God, and the only true life, which endures forever.

At that time, the whole world, under the influence of Satan, was, and up to now, almost all of it, is living a life which is the opposite of this one which Christ was preaching. So, by preaching this new life, He was opposing the already existing one, thus, opposing those who lived it and for this reason, they hated him, because He tells us; “The world ---- hateth me, because I testify to it that its life is evil – John. 7:7”. He was a rebel in Satan’s Kingdom (the world).

Do we now see what connection there is between Christ’s death and our sins? He was teaching us. Opening our eyes, which is something Satan hated.

Yes, Christ would not agree to live the wrong and destructive life, neither would he support anyone who did so. This He did to teach us by both practicing and speaking the true life and make us to discover Satan’s deception.

Therefore, if it was to live for that evil life, which is the life of the today’s world, Christ chose death rather than live it. They tried to insult, isolate, and even lastly beat him until they tore his flesh and then crucified him, but He said no to that life.

He was like one overthrowing a government by teaching a different constitution. This is why they killed him. But even though theirs was to silence him, they were helping to fulfill a prophecy concerning our salvation.

We who have accepted that life have also taken the same position, that of dying with him in the flesh as we also live with him in the spirit.

Come every fourteenth day of the first month, during the Passover, we renew our commitment in that union with Christ in a death, and burial like His, concerning this evil life, and in a resurrection and life with Him, for this good and everlasting life – see Rom. 6:3 – 4, 9.

So after the Passover, on the fifteenth day, we also gather together before the Lord, on the 1st day of the feast of unleavened bread, according to the commandment, for He tells us, “And on the 15th of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord – Lev. 23:6-7”.

LEAVEN

Every one of us knows very well that, leaven is representative of that evil life which on the Passover, we show ourselves to be committed to dying concerning it.

If we remember our message title, it is talking of “The Greatest Leaven” the greatest evil. In this seven days’ feast of unleavened bread, we are commanded not to eat, nor have leaven of any kind in our homes – see Lev. 23:6.

According to its significance, our Lord is through this holy day, reminding us to remove this evil life from our lives as we put on the good and righteous one.

Brethren, if we will successfully remove it, its good that we clearly understand, or else, it is very impossible to remove what we don’t know. Therefore, as we have observed this year’s feast of unleavened bread (sinless life), today being the last day, lets begin by asking ourselves this question. Which is the greatest heaven, which causes the rest of the leaven to continue? Put in a more clear way, which is the greatest sin, that causes the other sins to continue?

This is something we all need to be very clear about, if we will have gotten the spiritual message of this year’s feast in “--- “Sincerity and Truth” – 1Cor. 5:8”. What can we liken this great leaven with?

Am sure, a great majority of us took the history subject back in our school course. In history, we learned about events and the effects they brought to the society. But this knowledge didn’t change our way of thinking or doing things.

I can tell you how Columbus sailed to America. How the early missionaries explored Africa. But after that, I will continue in ma way of thinking. If you asked me, I’ll tell you that Columbus was a man like me. So I don’t need to do like him, I also have my own history to make.

A great majority of us have taken the scriptures in the same way. We read and understand scriptures but we don’t do what they instruct us. This is the greatest leaven of all times brethren, which? Receiving and treating God’s law like historic tales.

Many of us do sing scriptures like songs. But we don’t take them as instructions to be followed when thinking or doing things in our Christian lives.

To us, the scriptures have become some historic tales about events. For this reason, though having been attending Sabbath services and listening to Christ’s instructions through his servants for many years, we still are no different from the rest of mankind in our behaviors.

Our Lord is telling us. “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of God”. What was these people’s righteousness like?

They used to sit on Moses’ seat, reciting and teaching others to recite the law, but never put even the least effort to do it – see – Mat. 23:3. When it comes to doing, they will put a side God’s law and do what their hearts dictates.

Therefore, Jesus called them, and is right now calling whoever among us is behaving like them, “hypocrites,” Yes, masked men, who appear one way outwardly, while they are a different way inwardly – Mat. 23:25.

I may seem to be going out of the topic line, but its not so. For many years, we’ve used this word “leaven”. But we don’t seem to have gotten its implication in life.

Its like just some mere yeast out there but our lives are something else in our hearts. As the end of the age draws near, our Lord is hereby wishing that we stopped imagining and begin to think of real and practical life.

Even though we are talking of leaven, everyone who reads this message should be thinking of his / her own life, or else, they be not understanding what our Lord is teaching us here.

Back to point please.

Our Lord is making it very clear, what the Biblical – leaven – talk is all about. Listen please. “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees ---, meaning their teachings or doctrines – Mat. 16:6,11 – 12”.

Yes, leaven is a lifestyle here, and one that defiles, and destroys a man. It is a thought, a desire, and an action in man’s life, for of it, it is written; “But those things which proceeds out of the mouth comes from the heart, and they defile a man.

For out of the hearts come evil thoughts, murder – Mat. 15:18 – 20. This is why it has everything to do with hearing and not doing, for concerning the Pharisees, our Savior said, “They teach but don’t do – Mat. 23:3.”

NOT DOING IS THE GREATEST LEAVEN.

Brethren, though we today are seeing the end of the feast of unleavened bread, lets understand this one important thing. The seven days feast is like a seminar. God has used it to print a strong reminder in our minds of how we should live our Christian lives until Christ comes, or our physical life ends.

It is why the today’s message is insisting on doing, on living the law because, if we don’t do that, we are not Christians, and we observed the feast in vain, for Christ is telling us; “Not everyone who calls me Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom, but him who does the will of my father who is in heaven – Mat. 7:21,” and again, “For it is not the hearer of the word who is justified before God, but the doer – Rom. 2:13.”

So now, with this enlightenment, lets see how, “not doing” is the greatest leaven, which holds every other leaven. Brethren, lets all be thinking about our lives as we read this message. Lets not dream any more. As it is our motto, let everyone of us be examining their hearts to see if we are truly unleavening our lives as we have demonstrated physically in the course of that one-week.

A LIFE OF SIN

Every one of us began with Satan’s life, the way of this world. Have you ever thought of that? That, all what you and I have been entertaining as life is of Satan the devil? If not, we better do, for there is no way we can begin unless we first admit being wrong; Yes, there will be no need of quitting if we are on the right. But as it is, this world’s life is different from God’s laws.

Let’s pray that God may open our minds to comprehend what He is telling us here please. So now, we’ve all through since birth led the wrong life. In the midst of this darkness, Christ appeared, proclaiming a different life, the very opposite of the one we live. He also proclaimed another coming kingdom, which replaces the kingdoms of this world, and in which, this new life is the order, and is the law.

We are not giving a story here. We are talking about life-please. Now, we heard His voice and accepted, Yes, believed what He said to be true, thus, admitting the worldly life we are living to be wrong.

MUST CHANGE

In real life, every time one discovers something he/she is doing to be wrong and dangerous to life, they stop doing it immediately. They stop because they value life and want every good of it.

We very well know poison, and know for sure that it kills. Therefore, it is impossible for us to take and drink it.

This is exactly what we should be doing to the worldly life if we have truly discovered how poisonous and killing it is. When we used to live the worldly life, it wasn’t just a matter of talking about it but doing.

Now that we have known it to be wrong, and destructive, we must stop doing it, practicing it. We must also start doing, yes, practicing the Christian life, not just talking about it. This is what it takes to unleaven our lives.

God is developing, yes, building His Holy Righteous Character in us. This is what He is instructing us to do; “As obedient (law keepers) children, do not conform yourselves to the former lusts, of your ignorance; But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your doings – 1Pet. 1:14-15.” When we reject scripture and do according to what we think or desire, then we are conforming to our former manner of life.

Remember, if this holy righteous behavior is not formed in us, does not become our way of life, we will never enter the kingdom. It can be formed only if we do the scriptures. When we look

at the great majority of us who have accepted to live this Christian life today, we see too much talking about it and very little, or no doing of it.

And because we don't do, then our life-style hasn't changed even in the least. Let's cite some examples. Formerly, when somebody insults us, we would get angry, hateful and insult back. We trusted men and material wealth instead of God. We would be sorrowful, fearful; we committed adultery, stole, told lies etc – see Rom. 1:29 – 31.

Have we turned from these practices? These are the leaven we should be removing from our lives. How much have we removed them? Don't be fast to answer? Lets thoroughly search our hearts.

Why? Because up to now, we see Christians who don't see eye to eye, who don't talk to one another. Is this not hatred, a former behavior?

We meet and spent all the time of our fellowship, discussing businesses; how to get more, how to climb to the heights of this worldly life, "living according to the flesh, setting our minds on fleshly things – Rom. 8:5", against God's instructions – see Deut. 6:5 – 9; Col.3:1 - 2. Is this not a former behavior?

Most of the church members today fear to speak and practice the hard- core truth, so as not to be cast out or isolated by fellowmen, just like the Pharisees of Christ's time – see John. 12:42 - 43;

Yes, we fear losing jobs, businesses etc, thus, preferring them to God, depending on them instead of God. Is this not what we did in our former lives?

All this is because of the greatest leaven, "NOT DOING".

Why? What can we do to start doing?

Yes, how can we begin to seriously unleaven our lives and so be keeping the feast in spirit and truth?

KNOW THE VALUE WORTH OF LIFE

In life, we pursue things because of, and according to the value we attach to them. However valuable something can be, if we don't know its value – worth, we don't strive for it.

So, if we will remove the "not doing", the greatest leaven, the beginning point will be to understand the value of "doing".

Understanding is what gives us a reason to put effort. The people of the world put every effort in searching for money because their minds can only understand physically. Now, on the physical level, money is the most valuable thing. It can buy everything the physical body needs.

This is why they will do anything it takes to get it.

So, if we Christian will succeed in unleavening our lives, we first of all need to know the value worth of this godly life. Do we know? I don't think so.

Why? Let's hear what someone who knew its true value says; "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and honey comb. Psalm. 19:10." And again; "The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver". "Your word has given me life – Ps. 119:72, 50".

This is king David talking about God's life, which we are pursuing today. Job also, on discovering the great value in it had this to say; "Even if He slays me, yet will I trust in Him". Have we really discovered this same value? How come we fail to do it in exchange of getting money, pleasing people, entertaining fleshly lusts, and the like?

The truth is, these things are more valuable to us than the law, meaning, we are yet to know it, because, in reality, the law is more valuable than them. A true discovery would leave us losing everything to gain it – see Mat. 13:

Whatever we do, including the evil things, we do because we think we are prolonging life and adding more good to it. But now, God who alone knows the only right way of everlasting, peaceful and good life has revealed to us how to do it.

He says, "I am the Lord your God; who teaches you to profit; who leads you in the way you should go – Isa. 48:17."

Is this what we accepted, believed and so, came into God's church to pursue? If Yes, why are we exchanging the most valuable thing with a less valuable one? Something must be wrong. There is lack of discovery of this true value.

UNLEAVEN YOUR LIVES

Our Lord and savior is instructing us, saying, "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments – Mat. 19:17."

Brethren, as the last day of the feast of unleavened Bread comes to a close, we hope it will print and mark a serious beginning of our doing the word. Our Lord says; "Blessed are those who hear the word and do it".

Why? Because doing, is the very pilot of all righteousness and holiness, the only life, which will qualify us for eternal life. Every time we do the word, we reject doing a wrong thing; we remove an evil behavior or talk from our lives; Yes, we unleaven, for it is written, "Sanctify them by thy Truth, Thy word is the truth – John. 17:17." And again. "That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

That He might present to himself a glorious church – spotless and blameless – Eph. 5:26 – 27." Yes when we do according to the scriptures, we stop doing according to our simple minds. This removes wrong behaviors from us and cleans us.

Is this what we have been reminded by the feast of unleavened bread, what has been rekindled in us to do from now henceforth? Has this Godly life become so valuable to us such that we are ready to lose the physical life for it?

Will we say no to fear of people, love of money, hatred, drunkenness, pride, yea, to anything that will cause us not to obey God, that we may attain it? “My brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of our Lord as an example of suffering, affliction and patience – James. 5:10.”

When Jesus our example was put to task, Satan trying to make him disobey the word, He never accepted. “His visage was marred more than any man; and His form more than the sons of men”. “—And all my bones are out of joint, ----- they pierced my hands and feet; I can count all my bones Isa. 52:14; Ps. 22:14 – 7.”

Today, we disown God and His life for mere hunger, reviling by men, things such as sexual pleasure, drunkard ness and praise by other people. Will we then endure when beating like that of Christ comes? Those who were before us never gave in to any pressure from whatever source.

Today, God has awakened us and wants us to start the removing of all leaven that we have taken in. He tells us, “Awake you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light – Eph. 5:14.”

The starting point to waking up is to remove the greatest leaven “NOT DOING”. Having known God’s life to be the only enduring one, lets not allow anything to make us not to do it, even at the lose of our physical lives if need be, for He wonders; “who should separate us from the love of Christ?” The answer is none.”

Therefore, should we allow anything to separate us from this life? Should anything stop us from unleavening, from doing? No “neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor powers, -- - shall be able to separate us from the love of God (His life) which is in Christ Jesus our Lord – Rom. 8:38 – 39.”

Brethren lets step forward boldly with this knowledge and unleaven our lives. Let us walk worthy of the calling with which we were called. Let our conduct be worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, packed with the unleavening agent, which is doing the word.

This is the voice in the wilderness, crying for this last time, before Christ returns. Whoever has ears; let him hear what the spirit is saying.

**Want to know more, call,
+254736872761 .**