

Sunday January 27th 2019
The Word of God
A Survey of the Bible – Lesson 14G
‘The End of Your Faith’

1). Jas 5:7 *Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*

We had realized a long time ago that we need patient endurance as we continue on in the race of the faith, knowing that our present time as Christians is a time of sowing in preparation for a harvest that we may reap at the Lord’s Judgment Seat. And to that end the writer of Hebrews has admonished us – Heb 6:11 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

And with respect to the full assurance of the hope, the coming of our Lord and the events to follow, our hearts need to be established. And now more so than ever because ‘the coming of the Lord is at hand’.

a). And as that Day gets closer and closer when we shall see Him as He is, it would be remiss not to take every opportunity to exhort and encourage us to establish our hearts with respect to the hope, to the salvation of our souls.

b). As this is ‘so great salvation’ we need to be assured of the inestimable value of a redeemed soul on the one hand – Matt 16:26 *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

And what is required of us to attain it, to have the full assurance of hope until the end, on the other – Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

c). And the salvation of our soul we have seen in these past weeks of study is a present continuous process which requires the laying aside of specific things so as to be able to receive with meekness the implanted word, the only way our soul may be saved.

d). And it is this process to which our hearts must be established, set firm and become immovable.

e). This was Paul's purpose as seen in Romans – Rom 16:25 *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—*

Paul's desire was for the Lord to establish the church in Rome according to his gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, through the Word of the Kingdom. And this same desire was foremost in Peter's ministry – 2 Peter 1:12 *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*

Peter desired those who heard him to be constantly reminded 'of these things', the same things Paul wrote about, so that his audience would remain 'established in the present truth'. And the purpose of the Holy Spirit with respect to that seen in Romans and 2 Peter has not changed. And He will continue to strive with us even now to that end through the Scriptures – Php 1:6 *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

f). But, if we are to establish our hearts in the present truth, that we might be obedient to the faith, and receive the salvation of our soul then we must keep ever before us, being reminded always of that which the scriptures teach as we are continually filled with the Spirit.

2). So, with this in mind, let's remind ourselves again of - Rom 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your*

mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We have seen in our previous studies that there is a constant theme that has run through the Scriptures we have studied which is presented here in Romans as, 'do not be conformed to this world'.

a). It is the same theme that we saw in – Matt 16:24 *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

And in – Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

1 Pet 1:1 *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*

And also – Eph 4:22 *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

And – Col 3:9 *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

And throughout these verses which reach the same thing, we find confirmation of the absolute necessity of making a separation from all that is connected to our unredeemed soul in bondage to sin, if we are to receive the Living Word, the breath of God, unobstructed into our saved human spirit.

b). And this separation is essential because our unredeemed soul finds its place within the present world system, under the authority of the god of this age – 1 Joh 5:19 *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

That which is the breath of God, the Living Word, is God Himself and it is not possible for that which is Spirit to be received without corruption if it is obstructed by the ear wax of sin – 1 Joh 1:5 *This is the message which we have*

heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

c). It is for this reason that we find the command in Romans 12 to ‘stop being conformed to this world’ and instead to be ‘transformed by the renewing of your mind’. If we remain conformed to this world then our mind cannot be transformed because our thought processes will remain in bondage to sin, we will be dull of hearing and we will walk in darkness rather than light.

d). And I am sure it will not surprise us to know that God has provided an OT type for us to demonstrate this very thing.

e). And not only has He provided the type for us, but He also draws our attention to the fact that He has done so.

f). At the end of 1 Corinthians Chapter 9 Paul admonished the Corinthians with respect to their participation in the race of the faith –
1 Cor 9: 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Paul’s concern for them is that they should run to win, and he uses himself as an example of what this should look like.

g). Then at the beginning of Chapter 10 Paul took the Corinthians to the type that God has provided of a race that had already been run using it as a warning to them concerning their own race - *1 Cor 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things became our examples [Gr, ‘tupos’ = type], to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9*

nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples [Gr. 'tupos' = type], and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

3). And so, not surprisingly, it is Israel, the first generation to come out of Egypt, who is our type, our example, specifically given to us as our admonition - Ex 12:3 *Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: "On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.....12 "For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. 13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.*

The beginning point, for Israel as we know, is the death and shed blood of the Passover lambs and in conjunction with that death and shed blood came the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

a). Leaven is always used in Scripture to represent sin and corruption, and so we can see from the type that from the application of the blood onwards there was the expectation on God's part that His people would remove the sin and corruption from their houses for 7 days. To eat unleavened bread would be to practice sin.

b). This was a feast though kept by Israel to the letter, but not to the Spirit of that which was given to them.

c). 7 is a number of completion and Israel was expected to remove the sin and corruption from the House of Israel for a complete period of time. A time that would encompass their deliverance from Egypt to the establishment of the Theocracy in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And at the end of v15 we see that anyone who did not do this, did not remove the leaven

would be 'cut off from Israel' – they would be cut off from God's purpose for the nation as His adopted firstborn son at the head of the nations and cut off from the unique role and relationship He had ordained for them –

Ex 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Israel's beginning point both parallels and typifies our own, with the Lord Jesus Christ being our 'Passover Lamb' whose death and shed blood has delivered us from the world, pictured through Egypt – 1 Cor 5:6b..... *Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore 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.*

Purging 'out the old leaven' for us, parallels the feast of unleavened bread for Israel. And can we see that purging out the old leaven is exactly the same process that we have identified in 'laying aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness? And in 'stop conforming to this world'? 'Putting off our old man'? 'Denying our self, taking up our cross and following Him'? And through the type given to us in Exodus we know that we are to do this for a complete period of time, the complete period of time of our Christian journey, seen in the leaven being removed and not eaten for 7 days, as we go from the land of our birth to the land of our heavenly calling.

d). And that which God said concerning the House of Israel recorded by Moses in Exodus Chapter 19, is exactly the same thing that He says through Peter with respect to the House of Christ -1 Pe 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*

Heb 3:5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, 6 but Christ as a

Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Abstaining from fleshly lusts is really just another way to say, 'purge out the old leaven', 'lay aside....', 'deny yourself'. And the reason for doing this as we see in Peter is because the fleshly lusts 'war against the soul' – they fight against that which will bring about the soul's redemption - the 'so great salvation' that is to be brought about through properly receiving the Living Word. The fleshly lusts are an obstruction to that process, taking us again to the ear wax that would cause us to become dull of hearing.

e). And if failure to remove the leaven resulted in the individual being cut off from Israel in the type then failure to 'lay aside' can only result in the individual Christian being cut off from the House of Christ with respect to the Millennial Kingdom in the antitype – 1 Cor 3:15 *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.* 16 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* 17 *If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

In these verses to the Corinthians Paul uses the 'temple of God', as it was in Jerusalem, or the Tabernacle in the wilderness, as a metaphor for our body in which the Spirit of God dwells as a result of us receiving the breath of life at our eternal salvation.

f). And the 'temple of God' would be defiled by us by not removing the leaven, not abstaining from fleshly lusts, not laying aside, not purging out the old leaven, conforming ourselves to the world. With the outcome clearly seen as destruction, 'God will destroy him'.

g). These are somewhat scary words and are meant to be. Such is the seriousness with which God takes this. But let's keep in mind that this is destruction with regards to the saving of the soul for the Millennial Kingdom. There is no eternal dimension to this whatsoever. Nonetheless, the absence of any eternal dimension does not minimize the seriousness of the consequence.

4). Now, if we go back to 1 Corinthians Chapter 10 for a moment - *3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

We will see here that they all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink – but despite this God was not pleased with most of them and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. They were cut off from the House of Israel.

a). So, why did this happen? Simply put, they had failed to remove the leaven and so the spiritual food they were given was obstructed, they became dull of hearing. And this led to a consequence that God had told them about prior to their departure from Egypt – Ex 12:15 *Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.*

A consequence seen here in - Num 14:34 *According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection. 35 I the Lord have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.’ ”*

God did to the entire generation, except Caleb and Joshua, exactly what He said He would do recorded back in Exodus 12.

b). Now, if God did this with Israel in accordance with His word then we can conclude that He will do exactly as He has said with respect to the Christian who defiles the temple of God - ‘God will destroy him’.

c). The question then arises, ‘Why didn’t Israel put out the leaven?’ And can we see in what they did the reason that we might not purge out the old leaven ourselves? Well as 1 Corinthians 10 tells us that Israel is provided as a type for us, for our admonition, the answer to our second question is ‘Yes’.

d). So, what about the first question? ‘Why didn’t they put out the leaven?’ In their inaction with respect to removing the leaven is the key to the answer.

e). God had told them what to do and what would be theirs if they were faithful to it. And the consequence if they were not. His word was given to them. But they did not respect the Lord’s word for what it is. Such were their fleshly lusts that the breath of life became contemptible to them. And this contempt is graphically pictured through their attitude to the manna, the bread from Heaven – Num 11:5 *We remember the fish which we ate freely in*

Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" 7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. 8 The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil.

The manna was the supernaturally provided food that God had given to sustain them through their wilderness journey, providing everything they needed for health and wellbeing. The manna then, represents the spiritual food which they all ate.

f). But, God's provision, in their minds because of the undealt with sin, was clearly not what they wanted and as a result they did all sorts of things to the manna to change it, to make it more palatable for them, to fit their fleshly lusts. The result of their actions produced a product whose 'taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil' – bland and tasteless.

g). The manna was not given that way, it didn't start out bland and tasteless, but it became that way because of their attitude to it.

h). What they wanted was the food they had in Egypt, the food of bondage, the food provided within the realm of the god of this age.

i). For them the food of Egypt was more exciting, tastier, more desirable [echoes of the fruit from the tree in the Garden] than that which they had made bland and unpalatable, which was the living word, the life of God.

j). And I am sure we realize that food is used as a metaphor for the realm from which we get that which will govern our lives on a day to day basis
Jas 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Where will we go for our lunch today?

We will continue with this next time. If the Lord is willing.

