

Are You Worthy?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—As many Church of God congregations approach the spring feast days, I began a series of six articles discussing principles that can be rehearsed at this time of year.

Here is the list of articles in this series that have been written so far.

- March 23—"Overview of Passover in Book of Exodus."
- March 30—"The Night in Which He Was Betrayed."
- April 6—"Do This in Remembrance of Me."
- April 13—"Are You Worthy?"

No leaven after deliverance

Do you remember when the children of Israel in the Old Testament put leaven out of the homes? It was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

And why was that? The Old Testament lesson was a reminder of the children of Israel leaving Egypt in haste. There just wasn't enough time for their bread to rise.

Would it surprise you to realize that the same lesson applies to the New Testament—even though the metaphor is different?

Just as the children of Israel in the Old Testament removed leaven during the Days of Unleavened Bread, it is my perspective that a disciple can use the metaphor of leaven to show the proper reaction toward receiving God's grace. Here are two important pillars of my paradigm.

- Disciples are saved by grace.
- Since disciples are saved by grace, our Heavenly Father has expectations of His children.

1 Corinthians 5:7—"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."

- Christ (our Passover) was sacrificed for us.
- That sacrifice means we are truly unleavened (from sin).

■ Therefore, purge out old leaven (sinful behavior) and become a new lump (new creation).

Does deleavening make you worthy?

The apostle Paul instructed the disciples to examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28) before taking the New Testament symbols of deliverance.

When a person reads 1 Corinthians 11 in the New King James Version of the Bible, he reads the English words “in an unworthy manner” two times, in verses 27 and 29.

Some people connect the concept of worthiness with how much leaven they remove from their homes—before partaking of the symbols of the broken bread and wine.

■ Worthiness is not about the amount of leaven removed from your home—before partaking of the New Testament symbols.

■ Worthiness is not about the amount of sin removed from your life—before partaking of the New Testament symbols.

Examining is not about worthiness

The Moffatt translation uses two different wordings in place of “in an unworthy manner.” See if you can spot them.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29—“Hence anyone who eats the loaf or drinks the cup of the Lord carelessly will have to answer for a sin against the body and the blood of the Lord. Let a man test himself; then he can eat from the loaf and drink from the cup. For he who eats and drinks without a proper sense of the Body eats and drinks to his own condemnation.”

■ Carelessly

■ Without a proper sense of the Body

Say it isn't so

Please do not use the metaphor of physical leaven as a means to examine your worthiness before God.