

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

1 Cor. 5:7

Intro: When the Apostle Paul wrote, "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us," he was doing a very significant thing. He was linking together what was possibly the greatest event of the Old Testament with that which is unquestionably the greatest event of the New Testament: the Passover in Egypt and the death of our Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem!

He was saying that the Passover is a picture of the Cross.

He was saying that what the Passover meant to the Israelites on that night, the Cross means to all believers.

He was saying that, just as the hopes of Israel on that fateful night depended upon the blood of the Passover Lamb, so our hopes of salvation now depend upon the blood of Christ.

One of the richest of all studies in the OT is to see how the details given about the Passover Lamb find their fulfillment in Christ. The Lamb was a type of Christ.

Just for a brief meditation tonight before we observe the Lord's Supper, which was instituted the last time our Lord observed the Passover before He went to the Cross, let me point out a few truths which will help us to remember the Lord -- which is the purpose of the Lord's Supper.

In doing this let me point out that the Passover, as such, is only mentioned 2 times in the NT Epistles: in our text (1 Cor. 5:7), and in Heb. 11:28.

We have already read 1 Cor. 5:7. Heb. 11:28 reads as follows:
Speaking of Moses -- "Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them."

This verse tells us three things which were significant about the Israelites and the Egyptians in that day -- and they apply to the sacrifice of Christ.

I. THREE SIGNIFICANT TRUTHS FOUND IN HEB. 11:28.

- A. First, there is the clear indication that everybody in Egypt was under the judgment of God. And this is confirmed by the book of Exodus. No family was exempt from the possibility that the firstborn son would die!

This is a point that we often do not even hear mentioned in the presentation of the Gospel today -- that all men

are under the judgment of God -- eternal judgment. We need to be reminded of this, and that that was our condition at one time, when we were without Christ.

- B. The second truth is that God provided a way of escape -- and only one way!

Note the words in this text: " . . . he (Moses) kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood."

Why did he do this? How did he know what he was supposed to do?

He did it because God told him to do it. It made no difference if he did not understand the reasoning behind it all; there was no other provision for deliverance. It was this, or death!

The fact that "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" points to this same fact. He is the only One through Whom man can be delivered from divine judgment.

This is another point that we need to remember.

But there is a third point:

- C. The third point is that this was done "through faith" (Heb. 11:28).

They not only knew that judgment was certain, and that God had provided a way of deliverance, but they acted upon it! They took it!

What an excellent illustration of Rom. 10:17,
"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing
by the word of God"!

There can be no faith apart from God and His Word. All else is mere presumption!

Thus, from the teaching of the 2 passages in the NT Epistles on the Passover, we learn a tremendous amount of vital truth which applies to the Gospel and to salvation.

But what about the word, "passover," in the OT?

Much could be said, but let me confine myself to two points that are brought out in Exodus 12 -- the Passover chapter.

Just thinking of the word, "passover," we see the following which we need to remember as we come to the Lord's table tonight.

Here they are:

II. TWO IDEAS CONTAINED IN THE WORD, PASSOVER.

Perhaps there are more, but these two are certainly a part of the revelation God gave to His people on that fateful night.

- A. First, "passover" mean to spare, or to deliver from judgment.

See Ex. 12:12, 13.

Death was certain. Either it fell upon the passover lamb, or upon the firstborn son. God was looking for the blood of the sacrifice. If it were not on the door, the firstborn died.

The Israelites did not need to understand all of the truth involved; they simply had to know what God required, and to abide by that!

Thus, we think of the Lord Jesus Christ tonight as our substitute. If He had not died for us, we would have to suffer the torments of eternal death. There was no other escape for the Israelites, and there is no other escape for us.

But, then, there is this other precious truth which we considered more in detail this morning:

- B. "Passover" means, secondly, that which is taught in Ex. 12:23.

A vital part of Israel's salvation that night was her preservation!

Only the Lord could do these two things:

- 1) Pass over and go on to others.
- 2) Pass over and remain with those families where He saw the blood.

So, if Christ is our Passover, He is not only our Deliverer from death, but He is the One Who keeps us so that death will never be able to touch us. I am speaking of eternal death.

Concl: How much there is to remember about our Lord and what He has done -- saving us when He had the right not to do anything, sending His Son to do the work in our behalf, and then guaranteeing the work so that we are both saved and kept. Let us worship the Godhead as we take the Lord's Supper tonight.