

**Subject: *Christ Our Passover***  
**Scripture: *1 Corinthians 5:7-8***

Paul writes about two things in these verses: 1) there is a statement of biblical doctrine (“for even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us”); and 2) there is a practical application of this doctrine (“let us therefore keep the feast...”). This is an example of Paul’s letters and his approach to teaching believers in the church. First, he presents the gospel truth we must know and believe. Second, he tells us how we ought to live in the light of that truth.

**1. The biblical doctrine of Christ our Passover**

Under this heading we see three things mentioned about Christ.

A. Christ is *our Passover*

The Passover was a yearly feast of the Jews that had a rich and important history. We find the record of the first Passover in Exodus in connection with the ten plagues in the days of Moses. The Passover was connected with the final plague upon the Egyptians when God passed through the land of Egypt at night and killed the firstborn son in every home, but at the same time, God passed over the homes of the Jews and spared their lives for one reason. God told the Jews to take a lamb for every family, kill it, and apply the blood of the lamb on the door posts of each house. He promised that when He saw the blood He would pass over the house and spare the lives of those inside. Therefore it was called “the Passover.”

This is a beautiful picture of Christ as the Passover lamb for all who trust in Him. John the Baptist introduced Christ in John 1:29, “Behold the lamb of God.” Christ fulfilled all the details of the Passover lamb as God instructed the Jews in Exodus 12. God told the Jews to take a male lamb. It was also to be a lamb without blemish (without any defect, a perfect lamb). It was to be a 1-year old lamb (a lamb in its prime, as we would say). It was to be separated from the flock and kept by itself four days. So Christ was set apart and chosen by God as our Savior.

B. Christ our Passover is *sacrificed*

The Passover lamb was taken and killed. This was a picture of Christ who was taken and crucified as the Lamb of God. In the Gospels we read that Christ was crucified at the time when the Jews were celebrating the Passover. This was not just a coincidence, but it was God’s perfect timing.

Christ died and shed His blood as our Passover. It was a bloody death. Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission (forgiveness) of sin. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb was applied to the door, the blood of Christ is applied to our soul when we put our trust in Him. Just as God saw the blood on the doors and passed over in mercy, when He sees the blood of Christ applied by faith to the soul, He passes over the believer in mercy. The blood of Christ satisfies God’s justice and protects all believers from God’s judgment.

According to Exodus 12, something else was required in the Passover. The Jews were to take the flesh of the lamb and roast it by fire, and then eat it with bitter herbs, and they were to have their robes tied up and ready for quick movement and have their staffs in their hands

ready to leave Egypt and travel to the Promised Land. All this was a picture of Christ our Passover and what God expects from His people.

The roasting of the Passover lamb by fire was a picture of Christ's suffering. The eating of the lamb is a picture of faith and how the believer takes Him by faith and feeds upon Him for life and strength. Eating the bitter herbs is a picture of repentance and godly sorrow for sin. There must be true faith and genuine repentance. The clothing and staves ready in their hands is a picture of believers who are ready to serve God and begin their journey through life with Him. God's people are to be servants and pilgrims. All of this is a beautiful picture of Christ our Passover and the life He gives to His people.

C. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

When the Jews killed the Passover lamb and applied the blood on the door of their houses they knew the blood of that innocent lamb died so that they might live. The only thing that stood between them and God's judgment was the blood of the Passover lamb. That is a picture of Christ our Passover. Christ died not only for our good, but He died in our place. He died not as our example, but He died as our substitute.

**2. The practical application of Christ our Passover**

This profound truth that Christ is our Passover is sacrificed for us is connected in a practical way with the truth that believers are to live holy, dedicated lives that glorify Christ. The feast of Passover was connected with the feast of unleavened bread, and we see that connection here in the text. Paul makes application to believers in two ways:

A. Believers in Christ are to remove the old leaven of sin

We are to put away the sins of the old life before we trusted Christ. The Jews removed leaven (yeast) from their bread and ate unleavened bread for a week after celebrating Passover. Believers are to remove all kinds of sin from their lives because we are now a "new lump" that is unleavened.

B. Believers in Christ are to live holy lives in sincerity and truth

Verse 8 in our text amplifies this truth. Believers are to keep the feast, not with the old sin of malice (hatred, ill-will) and wickedness, but with a life of holiness, a life of sincerity and truth (a life of integrity and without hypocrisy). This is a call to be different. To be a Christian is to live as a new person with a changed heart and life. The language in this verse speaks of the Christian life as joyful and satisfying ("let us keep the feast"). The expression "keep the feast" is one word in the original Greek and this is the only time it is found in the NT. Living the Christian life is "keeping the feast," that is, feeding upon Christ by faith, rejoicing in Him because His blood protects us from God's judgment, being ready for service and being thankful for our freedom from bondage, and rejoicing in our daily walk with Christ as a pilgrim on our way to the promised land.

In Exodus 12 where we find God's instructions to Moses about the Passover, there is one more thing we need to know. God told the Jews to begin their year with the Passover. This became the first month of the year.

What a message this is for us as we begin the New Year. We should live in this New Year remembering that Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. We should remember that He is the perfect Lamb of God and His blood is the reason we escape the judgment of God. We should put away all sin from our lives and commit ourselves to be people of sincerity and truth for His sake.