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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“A LITTLE LEAVEN**

**LEAVENETH THE WHOLE LUMP”**

**1 Corinthians 5:1-13**

***I Corinthians 5:1 "It is reported commonly [that there is] fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife."***

Fornication, in this particular Scripture, means severe perversion. Notice this seems to be common knowledge. This type of perverted sin and incest {so prevalent in our day} are so bad that even the heathen, who do not know God and His laws, do not practice this sin. This is not necessarily this man's mother. It could be his stepmother, but it is a terrible sin by any account. In the book of Leviticus, there are definite regulations about this very thing.

***I Corinthians 5:2 "And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."***

These Christians know about this and have done nothing about it. This is like so many in our day, who believe if you have been baptized, you are not guilty of sins you commit. Paul is saying, why have you not forcibly removed him from your group? It is as if you approve of what he is doing. This could give this church a very bad name in the community. The fact that they have not dealt with this within the church would make it even worse. They are puffed up with pride that they are Christians and are not dealing with the sin that is in the church.

***I Corinthians 5:3 "For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, [concerning] him that hath so done this deed,"***

Paul has just heard of this sin from afar, and he knows exactly what should be done about this matter. Those who were in the church in authority should have already handled this.

***I Corinthians 5:4 "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,"***

***I Corinthians 5:5 "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."***

This is not saying that they would automatically be saved because of the suffering of the flesh. This is saying that the protection is removed from this person, and Satan can do with this sinner's body whatever he will. This is done to cause the sinner to repent. If you repent of sin, your spirit will be saved, even if your body is ravaged by that sin. Paul is saying also, in the verse above, that these are not his own personal wishes for this man, but the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***I Corinthians 5:6 "Your glorying [is] not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"***

Just the fact that a person has accepted Jesus as their Saviour does not exempt them from punishment for their sin. Paul is saying here, if you let this go without taking care of this, the sin will spread in your church. You must remove the one who is infected with sin, so that this disease will not spread to the other members.

***I Corinthians 5:7 "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:"***

Leaven, in the verse above, is sin. Paul is saying, clean up your church, so that it will be without sin again. Purge, in this Scripture, means to cleanse thoroughly. Do not leave anything at all that is associated with this sin. Christ was the unleavened Bread. He was without sin. If we are truly followers of Him, we must be free of sin, as well. Jesus' sacrifice for us was to do away with the sin in our life. A person who sins must repent quickly and get forgiveness for that sin.

***I Corinthians 5:8 "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth."***

The life of a Christian should be a continual remembrance of the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Jesus {the perfect Lamb sacrifice} was our Substitute. We deserved the death on the cross, but He took our place. I see in this a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. In the passover, the lamb was killed and the blood drawn of the animal, but had they not put the blood over the door, death would have come to that house. We must not only believe that He gave His body at Calvary for our sin, but we must individually apply that precious blood to our life. He must be our personal Saviour. We must desire to be like Jesus. This next Scripture tells it all.

***Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."***

Sin should not be tolerated in your life, if you are a Christian. Anyone proclaiming Christianity should have no desire in their heart to sin. We should constantly be sincere with the Lord. Truth should be our standard.

***I Corinthians 5:9 "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:"***

We become like those we keep company with. Paul had warned of the dangers of fellowshipping with sinners. Fornicator, in this particular Scripture, is taken from the word pornos, and can be translated male prostitute. This includes homosexuals. This leaves no doubt as to the danger of those who associate with those who are involved in sex sins. This is primarily speaking of unnatural acts in sex relations, but includes adultery between male and female, as well. One thing we must note in this, it is alright to go and witness to the lost, this is just speaking of not getting caught up in their sin.

***I Corinthians 5:10 "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world."***

The statement, "not altogether" just means that he did not forbid casual association with these sinners, but continuous association, which might cause you to get involved in their sin. We are in this world with those who commit these sins, but we are not of this world. We are a holy people set aside for the purposes of God. We are not holy in our own right, but have put on righteousness which Jesus provided for us when He washed us in His precious blood. There would be no point in us staying in this world, except we had the opportunity to win people out of these sins to the living God.

***I Corinthians 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."***

Notice the fact that Paul called him a brother here, which means they were of like persuasion. It seems it is much worse for a Christian to be caught up in these sins, than it is for those who have not repented and given their lives to the Lord. To sin in full knowledge is much worse than to sin and not be aware that you are sinning. It does not say, again, that you are not to come in casual contact with them, but not to eat with them. When you eat with someone, it is a time of fellowshipping. We are not to turn our head the other way when a brother or sister sins, and act as if it did not happen. When you fellowship by eating with them, it is as if you are condoning what they are doing.

***I Corinthians 5:12 "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?"***

Paul is interested in keeping the converts that the Lord has given him. He cannot change the world, unless they want to be changed. His instructions are for those he claims as his own converts.

***I Corinthians 5:13 "But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."***

There is a day of judgement coming when the Lord Jesus will judge the whole world. Paul is saying, here, we do not judge the world, Jesus does. If someone is determined to live in sin like the world, put them out there in the world with the rest of the sinners. Let God judge them on judgement day, just as He will the rest of the sinners. Those who are determined to sin, should not be left with the Christians to contaminate them.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What had been reported to Paul about the church at Corinth?
2. This sin was such a bad one that not even the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ committed this sin.
3. Exactly what was the sin?
4. What does fornication, in verse 1, mean?
5. Who was this woman probably?
6. Did that make it any less a sin?
7. What did Paul say they should do with this sinner?
8. What is this church puffed up with?
9. Paul was absent in body, but present in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. In verse 4, Paul is speaking this in whose name?
11. Who were they to deliver this sinner to? Why?
12. That the spirit \_\_\_\_ be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
13. What is this done for?
14. A little leaven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the whole lump.
15. Is a person exempt from punishment just because he has accepted the Lord Jesus?
16. Why must the sinner be removed?
17. What is leaven in verse 7?
18. What does purge mean in verse 7?
19. Jesus must be our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Saviour.
20. Who had Paul written them not to company with?
21. What does fornicator, in verse 9, mean?
22. What type of sin is this primarily speaking of?
23. What does the statement "not altogether" mean?
24. What other sins are mentioned in verse 11?
25. Paul cannot change the world, unless they \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
26. Who judges them who are outside the church?