

Message



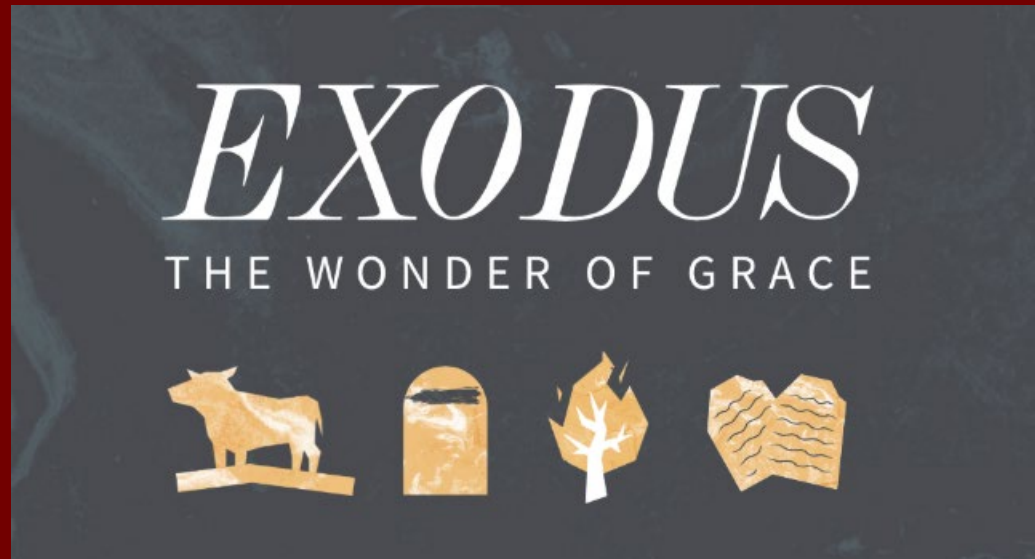
**Do Not
Harden
Your Hearts**

Neal Parker

Do Not Harden Your Hearts...

■ Hebrews 3:1-2, 5-13

- One of the most dangerous things that we must face comes from within us: Our Heart.
- Salvation is a process of God giving us a new heart to replace the heart when we were called to Salvation.



The Heart

■ Jeremiah 17:9-10

- “...more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick...”
- Matthew Henry
“...men think themselves, their own hearts at least, a great deal better than they really are.”

**I THE LORD
SEARCH THE HEART AND
TEST THE MIND**

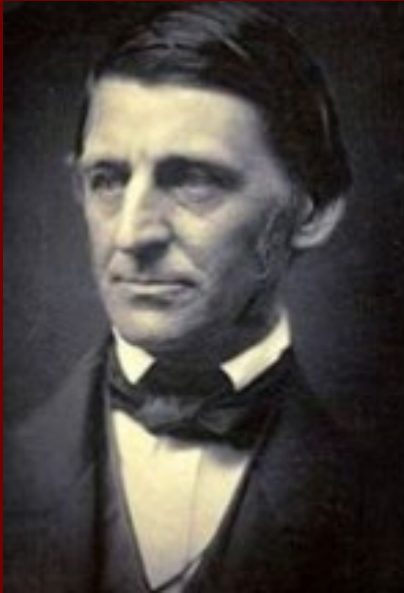
Jeremiah 17:10

Do Not Harden Your Hearts...

■ Hebrews 3:13

- **Hardened** is translated from the Greek word for a *callus*.
- **In a moral context, it suggests “impenetrable”, “insensitive”, “blind” or “unteachable”.**
- **It is not a sudden aberration, but a gradual and habitual state of mind, that shows inflexibility of thinking and insensitivity of conscience.**

Hardened Heart Habitual State of Mind



Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Shall We Continue In Sin?

■ Romans 6:1-2, 11-15

- What should we do once our past sins have been covered by the shed blood of Christ? "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" asked the Apostle Paul. "Certainly not!" was his emphatic answer
- "Shall we sin because we are not under [the penalty of the] law but under grace? Certainly not!"

We Must Forsake Sin

■ Revelation 18:4-8

- God commands us to come out of this world's ways of sin.
- Example of Israel left Egypt
 - Hebrews 11:25-26

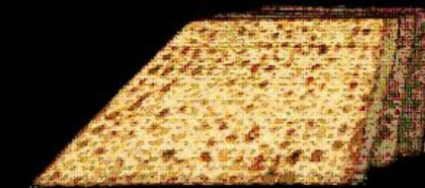
■ Philippians 2:12-16

- We must be striving to come out of all sin. That is OUR PART, with Christ's help, in God's plan of salvation

Spring Holy Day Meaning

I Corinthians 5:7-8

“Clean out the old leaven... For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed... celebrate the feast not with old leaven...malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”

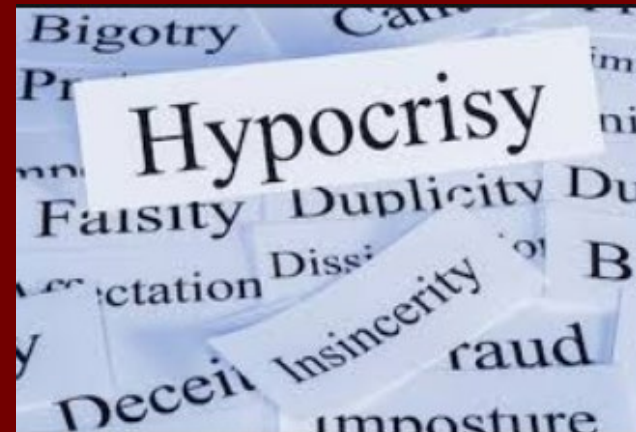


“The unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. . .”

Cautions of Leaven

■ Hypocrisy

- **Hypocrisy** is defined in the dictionary as, “the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform. Pretense.”
- **Hypocrisy** is the contrivance of a false appearance of virtue or goodness, while concealing real character or inclinations, especially with respect to religious and moral beliefs; hence in general sense, dissimulation, pretense, sham. It is the practice of engaging in the same behavior or activity for which one criticizes another.



Cautions of Leaven

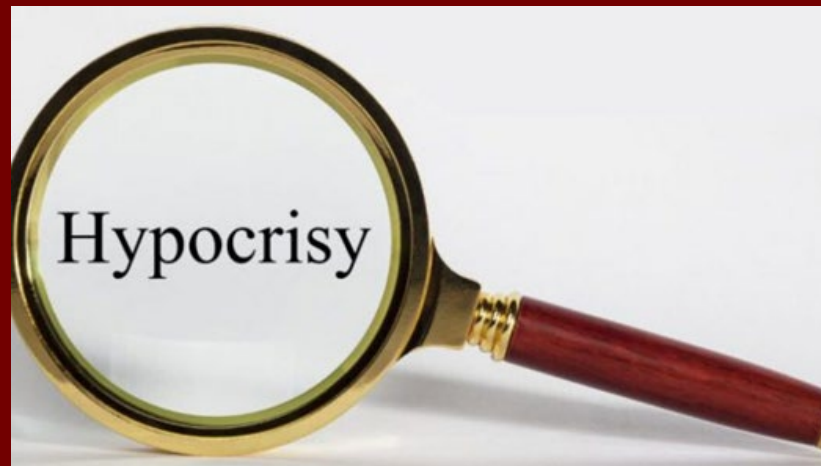
■ Watch / Heed and Beware

– Luke 12:1-3

- According to some commentaries, the warning is two-fold

1.) Watch / Heed (to see with your eyes; to see with your mind; look at it.)

2.) Beware (to bring near, to turn the mind to, to be attentive, to give heed to yourself, to apply to one's self)



Leaven of the Pharisees

- **Matthew 23:13-16, 23, 25, 29-31**
 - They taught about God, but did not love God.
 - They preached God, but converted people to a dead religion.
 - They denied the binding oath value to what was truly sacred.
 - They taught the Law of God, but did not practice the most important parts; Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness to God.
 - They presented an appearance of being “clean”, but were “dirty inside”.
 - They exhibited themselves as righteous, but hid their ungodly thoughts and feelings.
 - They professed a high regard for prophets of old, but condemned Jesus Christ.

Leaven of the Sadducees

- **Matthew 16:6, 11-12**
- **Acts 23:6-8**

The Sin
of Unbelief

Leaven of the Herod

■ Mark 8:15

■ Luke 23:8-12

- Herod was involved in a great deal of lying in his political wheeling and dealing, abusing the power of his office, adultery, and general all-around worldliness. (Matthew 16:4 an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and a sign will not be given, except the sign of Jonah)
- This word 'Sign', is *semeion*, in Greek (same word used by Pharisees in Matthew 12:38-42), is often translated 'miracle'. Jesus says, "an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign..."

Spiritual Applications for Our Consideration

■ Spiritual Context

– Galatians 2:17-20

- Jesus Christ living in us helps us overcome and remove sins, and Christ in us also helps us develop His positive character. Eating unleavened bread is symbolic of feeding on every word of God (manna), and becoming like Jesus, the bread of life (Matthew 4:4; John 6:35).
- The Spring Holy Day Season is a reminder of our deliverance from slavery to sin and of the transformation we can have by allowing our Deliverer to live in us.