

“The Wages of Sin is Death: A Little Leaven Leavens the Whole Lump” (Part 2)

Leviticus 14:1-57 & 1 Corinthians 5:6-13

This portion of scripture is both instruction on how to keep contagious disease/sickness from infecting the entire camp and a living parable of the severity of sin (Deuteronomy 32:39; Leviticus 14:34).

- Leviticus 14:1-7/Psalm 51:7-12
 - The priests had a responsibility to those who were hurting, both physically and spiritually (Malachi 2:7). The priests had the responsibility to go to the unclean outside the camp and restore the sick person back into fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:7-8). Wisdom and compassion are needed from spiritual leaders (1 Peter 5:1-3).
 - The water was mixed with blood to demonstrate that the reason that we can be made clean is because of the shedding of blood (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22). The number seven represents something being complete; they were sprinkled seven times to symbolize they were truly clean.
 - Most theologians believe that the two birds represent the work of Jesus Christ. His death, burial, and resurrection. This also represents our sin being put away from the presence of God; our sin has been dealt with by the work of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Hebrews 13:12-13; Hebrews 9:26; 1 John 3:5).
- Leviticus 14:8-20
 - The individual still had a responsibility in their “cleansing”. They needed to wait seven days outside of their tent, shave all of their hair, and wash their clothes and body before joining his/her family again (2 Corinthians 7:1; Colossians 3:3-7).
 - After their cleansing they would present themselves to be back in the active service of God (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:17). We cannot come into the presence of God and live for Him until we have been made clean (Hebrews 10:19-22; Hebrews 4:16).
 - Why is there such a focus on the guilt offering?
 - In case the sickness was because of sin; in case the sickness had led to a defiling of holy things; or if the sickness had led to not performing their vows. Do not forget that even our unintentional sins must be dealt with.
 - The oil represented healing from their disease and the blood represented forgiveness. Both our spiritual healing and forgiveness is because of the blood of Christ (1 Peter 2:24; James 5:14).
- Leviticus 14:21-32
 - All are welcome in the ministry of reconciliation; both the rich and the poor. Regardless of your status, the ceremony of reconciliation is the same (Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28).
- Leviticus 14:33-57
 - The house is said to be symbolic of both the church (Leviticus 14:36-42; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13) and symbolic of our physical bodies (Leviticus 14:43-45; 1 Corinthians 15:53-57).
 - We must take sin and the effects of sin incredibly seriously; the wages of sin is death (2 Corinthians 6:17).

(continued →)

Worship: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Various Artists)
O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer (Sovereign Grace Music)

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays:(In-Home) Bible Study:Women 6:30/Men 7; Thursdays:Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- More applications:
 - Spiritual maturity involves good stewardship in every area of life.
 - Christ's reconciling work will restore all things, not just the elect (Colossians 1:20; Revelation 21:4).
 - Sin has affected all things: individuals, institutions, the earth, and the universe. Sin is catastrophic!!