Spring Cleaning

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday May 5th, 2019

Text: I Cor. 5:6-8

### Intro

1. The thought of “Spring Cleaning” scares some, excites others, and is a chore to most.
2. Many scholars believe we owe “Spring Cleaning” to the Jews!
   1. The Passover was to be celebrated with the eating of unleavened bread.
   2. By the time of Jesus, the Jews had a tradition in the weeks leading up to the Passover, to clean out their houses top to bottom of any leaven they could find.
   3. They would search out every nook and cranny to throw out any leaven they found so that when Passover came, not even their houses would have it in them.
   4. The side effect of this practice was a clean house, and unnecessary things gotten rid of.
   5. This became known as the phrase, “Spring Cleaning” through the years.
3. Paul uses this practice to apply it to our spiritual lives:
   1. I Cor. 5:6-8: He applied it to the spiritual welfare of the church in that they tolerated a wicked man among them.
   2. He said, *“Clean out the old leaven.”*
   3. Not just applies to church discipline but in the way we live our lives, *“not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*
4. We will look at what spiritual “Spring Cleaning” means for our lives today…

#### Out With The Old

* 1. In order to live an “unleavened” life of “sincerity & truth,” the leaven must be tossed!
  2. Toss out the leaven…
     1. Of Malice & Wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-8)
     2. Of bitterness, wrath & anger, clamor and slander, malice (Eph. 4:30-31)
     3. Of the old self: anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lies (Col. 3:8-9)
     4. Of malice, deceit & hypocrisy, envy, slander (I Pet. 2:1)
  3. In the physical we clean our houses (or garages) and remove the trash and unnecessary things and restore order and cleanliness.
  4. We need to do the same in our lives:
     1. Gal. 5:19-21: “Fruit (Deeds) of the Flesh” will not gain us entrance to Heaven.
  5. God expects us to cleanse our lives more than every spring – He does expect it from us!
     1. Eph. 5:3-5, 7, 11-12: The leaven of life is darkness and Christians are expected to not only not participate in them, but also to expose them!
  6. Have you cleansed out the leaven from your life?

#### In With The New

* 1. When the cleaning is done, it’s nice to look upon all that space you have, isn’t it?
  2. In most cases though, once the cleaning is done, rearranging takes place to make sure certain corners and spaces are not cluttered up again.
  3. When we remove the old, we must replace it with new or else the old could come back!
     1. Mt. 12:43-45: The demon, having been removed, returned to find the house clean and in order but empty so moved in with new friends & the man is in worse shape!
     2. This happens with addictions or bad habits, if one is overcome but nothing good takes its place, you move from one addiction to another!
  4. We not only remove the old, but we replace it with new:
     1. Gal. 5:22-25: Out with the “Deeds of the Flesh” (Gal. 5:19-21) and practice the “Fruit of the Spirit.”
        1. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
     2. Eph. 4:32: Getting rid of the malice & wickedness is only the first part; you must then fill up the spaces with kindness, tenderness & forgiveness!
     3. Col. 3:10, 12-14: The old man dies and a new man is put on with new virtues.
     4. I Pet. 2:2-3: We are to replace our desires with the desire for God’s word!
  5. Getting rid of our old lives requires replacing it with a new one:
     1. I Tim. 6:11; II Tim. 2:20-26; Eph. 5:8-10: We are to flee from wickedness and pursue righteousness, to desire God’s word and practice it in our lives.
  6. Have you replaced the leaven with unleavened or have you just cleared a space?

#### Maintaining Cleanliness

* 1. To not have to have a “Spring Cleaning” one must be vigilant in cleaning when messes occur, to maintain order and cleanliness throughout the year.
     1. Be Vigilant! Be alert & Ready (I Thess. 5:1-6)
        1. That means when He comes the time for cleaning will be over.
        2. We must have already been rid of the leaven in our lives
     2. Live sensibly, righteously, godly (Titus 2:11-14)
        1. We maintain purity by constantly examining ourselves and practicing righteousness!
     3. Practice the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23-25)
        1. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
     4. Look ahead to Heaven as our goal (Phil. 3:12-14; II Pet. 3:10-12)
  2. These aren’t just good ideas, but a way of life – must be practiced
  3. Cleaning out the old leaven is the beginning – Have you maintained purity?

## Conclusion

1. We often stumble in the “Maintenance” part – we sin and let our old way of life creep in.
   1. We need to get rid of our old ways and repent, asking God for forgiveness (I Jn. 1:9).
2. Spring Cleaning is a good idea in the physical, but a MUST spiritually if we are to live eternally with God!
   1. Paul made it a daily habit – waiting till spring could be eternally deadly.
      1. I Cor. 9:26-27: Paul had to practice discipline daily (self-control – *Gal. 5:23*)
      2. He was afraid of becoming “disqualified,” meaning he would act in a way unbecoming a Christian and be discredited.
3. Do you practice maintenance daily?
4. We will fill our lives with something – make sure it is not the old we got rid of, but the new that will result in sanctification! *(Rom. 6:19)*
5. Have you thrown out the leaven from your life?
6. Replace it with righteousness!
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!