

**Matthew 13: 33; “The Leaven’s Complete Effect”, Session # 4 on the Parable of the Leaven, presented by Pastor Paul Rendall, on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the Adult Sunday School Class.**

**Matthew 13: 33** – “Another Parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

**1. There will be a certain completion of the work of the leaven both before, and at, Christ’s Second Coming.**

**a. The Work of Sanctification will be entirely completed in our Glorification.**

**Philippians 1: 3-6** – “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

What is the good work begun? It is God’s work in regeneration. When the Holy Spirit causes a person to be born again, they see and enter the kingdom of God, as it says in John 3: 3 and 5. Paul’s confidence concerning the Philippian believers was that since God had begun this good work in them, that he would continue it all through their lives, and complete it entirely in the Day of Jesus Christ, the Day when He returns, raises all of the righteous dead, and glorifies them.

**Romans 8: 18-25** – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.” “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” “Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?” “But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”

So the Leaven, or Christ resurrection power, is what began the good work of sanctification in our heart. This same resurrection power will complete the work on the Day He returns. On this Day of days, Christ will free the whole creation from the bondage of sin, and recreate the world before the eyes of His saints. We will see a New Heavens and a New Earth created, where there will be this glorious liberty from sin in all of its forms. Paul says here that this is something that we groan for; waiting for our adoption which is the redemption of our body. There will be this physical manifestation of the sons of God. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit now, but in that Day there will be the most full and public bestowal of physical and spiritual blessings possible in the reuniting of the soul and body forever. The adoption which is spoken of here is Christ’s publicly declaring before all of us that we are His children forever. In this sense He is called “the Everlasting Father” in Isaiah 9: 6. We eagerly wait for this day, persevering towards it, for we know, that even if we die, we shall all be raised to behold Christ’s Second Coming, and all of these glorious events.

**b. In Regard to the Gospel’s effect upon all the nations of the world before Christ’s Second Coming, all nations will be leavened.**

**Micah 4: 1-5** – “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to

it.” “Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ “For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” “He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” “But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.” “For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.”

It says here that peoples shall flow to Christ’s kingdom, and many nations shall come and say to each other – Come, and let us go up the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways and we shall walk in His paths. Notice that the context of these verses is the latter days of this present Church age. We know that these verses do not refer to the whole church age because of the way that Christ’s kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, is being talked about here. Christ’s kingdom, or the New Testament Church is called here, “the mountain of the Lord’s house”.

There will come a time when this kingdom will be established on the top of the mountains. As a spiritual kingdom it will rule over the other kingdoms of this world. It shall be exalted above all the hills. The influences of Christ’s truth and grace will be extensively diffused throughout all the societies in the world. That is, God Himself shall exalt Christ’s kingdom’s influence (the leaven) over all the countries of the world in a very great way. Wars between nations will come to an end during the time of the thousand years, or the Millennium. Neither shall anyone learn war any more during that time period. Everyone will sit under his own vine and fig tree and no one shall make them afraid.

**Zechariah 8: 20-23** – “Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, and seek the Lord of hosts.’ “I myself will go also.” “Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.” “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

You can see here, once again that the verses are speaking of a certain particular time period when these things will happen, during this Church Age. It is something that we should pray for and when it comes, participate in, in terms of our being united in prayer with all the Christians in all of these nations and people groups. You see here, also, that Jerusalem is mentioned as a great prayer center for the nations in that day. And you can see by the language that is used, that the Jews have been converted and brought into the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Their conversion will be the catalyst, through their preaching of the gospel, for the conversion of many nations and people groups world wide, because it will be seen that God is with them.

**This leavening power will be demonstrated by the Triune God and by Christ Himself specifically** – He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Brethren, these things have not yet taken place in Church History, but we are told here that someday they shall. This will be in the time of the Millennium before Christ’s Second Coming.

**Thomas Haweis’ Commentary** – “As a little of this diffuses itself gradually through the whole mass of meal with which it is mingled; so doth the gospel word when quickened by divine grace, powerfully diffuses

its energy through all the faculties of the soul, and over all the members of the body; sanctifying the whole, communicating throughout a sweet savor of Christ, and working a blessed and universal change into his image and likeness; and spreading far and wide among all nations, the word of truth shall continue its mighty operations till all nations shall be brought to the obedience of the faith. Note, (1.) Divine grace works often imperceptibly, but irresistibly. (2.) Where the leaven of truth is hid in the heart, there its influence will infallibly appear; there will be a sweet savor of Christ in all we speak or do.”

**Lange’s Commentary on the Scripture** – “This Parable, like the last, has its general and its individual application: (1) in the penetrating of the whole mass of humanity, by degrees, by the influence of the Spirit of God, so strikingly witnessed in the earlier ages by the dropping of heathen customs and worship:—in modern times more gradually and secretly advancing, but still to be plainly seen in the various abandonments of criminal and unholy practices (as e.g. in our own time of slavery and dueling, and the increasing abhorrence of war among Christian men), and without doubt in the end to be signally and universally manifested. But this effect again is not to be traced in the establishment or history of so-called Churches, but in the hidden advancement, without observation, of that deep leavening power which works irrespective of human forms and systems. (2) In the transforming power of the ‘new leaven’ on the whole being of individuals. “In fact the Parable does nothing less than set forth to us the mystery of regeneration, both in its first act, which can be but once, as the leaven is but once hidden; and also in the consequent (subsequent?) renewal by the Holy Spirit, which, as the ulterior working of the leaven, is continual and progressive.” (Trench, p. 97.)