

Observe Passover in worthy manner

Line 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: Will you be at Passover this year? Will you keep it in a worthy manner? Or can we be bringing problems on ourselves, including lack of healings, because of not taking the Passover in a worthy manner? HOW do we take it worthily?

Hello friends and family of God. Passover is almost here. I hope you're seeing this before Passover. Are you spiritually and mentally ready to participate in remembering the greatest victory of Jesus Christ depicted by the Passover? It's THE event that opens the door for so many things, including the defeat of Satan and death, and inaugurating the New Covenant in Christ's blood, and having our sins ALL erased (yes, even *that* sin) and then we're reconciled with God Almighty. Plus we get the right to become children of God as John 1 says.

OR, if we don't prepare properly, we're warned of some dire consequences. So we need this topic and reminder:

1 Cor. 11:27-29

"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so LET him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

This is serious business. We can't just rush into the Passover service, maybe stick a necktie on in the car, and sit down at the last minute. We are exhorted to examine ourselves and understand what we're doing and esteem the Body of Christ. I'll focus on that shortly after a few opening comments first.

This short teaching is about being in the best possible frame of mind for a most meaningful Passover service. I'm in touch with various ones, in various denominations even, and it's interesting how each one plans for Passover. **But what is essential is that you be ready, be prepared. Be sure you're ready to take Passover in a worthy manner as scripture says.**

So thank you everyone for coming. I'm Philip Shields. This will be my 52nd Passover. Yep, I'm getting old. And it's a busy time of year, so pressures could be on us to not be as prepared. We have to delevain our homes and cars, prepare for the big meal the next night, and be ready for Passover and deal with our job, everyday life and on and on.

I'd also like to **REMIND us all to remember to commemorate the WAVESHEAF day**, a day of Christ as The firstfruit, which will be on the first day of the week -- April 9, in 2023. John 20:1 – actually from Greek is “the first of the weeks”. **Wavesheaf Day** is not a holyday. I have a sermon on it you can listen to and don't forget this inspiring day.

Here's the sermon link for that:

<https://lightontherock.org/sermons/message/wave-sheaf-offering-2022.html?highlight=WyJ3YXZlc2hlyWYiLCJkYXkiLCJkYXknLiIsImRheSdzIiwid2F2ZXNoZWVmIGRheSjd>

There are 2 very interesting facts about the calendar this year.

- 1. It's very interesting that 2023 Passover is one where all the various “factions” of belief on Calendar – come together**, at least to the best of my knowledge. Those sighting the new moon in Jerusalem, those using the Rabbinic calendar, those using the spring equinox – ALL will be keeping Passover day on April 5 Wednesday. **The eve of Passover, April 4 Tues evening was footwashing.** (I'm just comparing the days of the week, I don't know what the actual DATES were the year Christ died, which I feel was 30 AD.)

Yeshua died at 3 pm on Wednesday, Passover DAY, called a preparation day” because the next day was a sabbath HIGH DAY (John 19:30-32) – an annual holy day, NOT a weekly sabbath. He was entombed just before sunset (Luke 23:54).

The HIGH day that year (and this year) was Thursday the year Christ died. That was the first day of Unleavened Bread, a holy day. He was

resurrected just before sundown Saturday night. By morning, the tomb was empty, but the resurrection could have been any time before the morning. It was already empty. Then Sunday was wavesheaf day so he could go be accepted by the Father in all of our behalf. Many keep Easter (but we don't) and this year even that is on the same day as Wavesheaf Day.

The days of Unleavened Bread were Thursday, thru Wednesday the following week. Day 1 and 7 were holy days, or high days.

- 2. This year's Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread calendar matches the calendar the year Messiah was nailed to the stake or cross.** *He HAD to be in the tomb for exactly three days and three nights, or he would have failed the only sign he gave of his Messiahship (Matthew 12:39-40).* Here's the scripture about the next day after his crucifixion was a "HIGH DAY" – a holy day.

John 19:30-32

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" (or just "Finished" in Greek) And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
31 Therefore, because it **was the Preparation Day**, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (***for that Sabbath was a high day***), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away."

Then if you keep reading, you find he was put into the tomb just before sunset. Remember that the day before any weekly or annual sabbath (holy day) is called the Preparation day.

Luke 23:54

"That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near."

But remember, that sabbath was not a regular sabbath, but a "High Day", the holyday of the first day of Unleavened Bread.

I strongly urge you to listen to my teaching on Christ the wavesheaf, who rose to heaven to be accepted on our behalf the next day. The Greek actually says "on the first of the weeks" – because the count to the Feast of Weeks/Sabbaths (Pentecost) had begun. John 20:1.

One more thing before we get into doing the Passover in a worthy manner: One thing I've learned too, is that **so many times Satan loves to throw**

distractions at us all in the days and weeks leading to Passover. Take care of urgent and vital things, but don't let him win. These may come in the form of serious trials, such as an illness, accident, bad news with family members, death in the family, surgery you need and other trials. *So if sudden trials are hitting you, it's not unusual.* Another tool Satan uses around Passover if we let him, is to send you very serious temptations in your weakest areas... and all of a sudden you find yourself fighting what would have been a horrible sin, just before Passover! All of these are meant to distract, demoralize and discourage, so you don't feel worthy to take Passover.

In my case, my wife and I BOTH had to go through **2-1/2 weeks of Covid-19** – but at least we have the antibodies now, I hope. Then I got 2 badly infected wounds on my right index finger and ring finger. It was almost impossible even to type. On top of that **my brother** – who's paralyzed and bed-ridden after several strokes and heart attacks – was just a couple days ago rushed to the hospital. He seemed near death. He's home now. And notes from **my oldest sister** whose entire right leg is likely to be amputated. I'm involved in a lot of phone calls. I don't want to get into all the details here, but please be praying for them: **Loren Shields**, my 73 year old brother in southern California, and **Paula my 75 year** old sister in Michigan.

Have you had some distractions? Or tough temptations out of the blue? Like I said, don't let Satan win. But if you do stumble, repent and *get back in the fight* with God's armor on. And don't feed the likelihood of temptation by bad choices you make.

Let's dive in now to the main topic of this message today – taking Passover in a worthy manner.

One of the biggest issues I've watched over the years is that some brethren look at the verses about examining ourselves before taking the Passover in a worthy manner and then:

1. They decide they're not worthy enough to take the Passover and stay home.
2. They come to Passover but still feel unworthy of it and don't feel any joy of Passover, when in fact Passover is a commemoration of universe-shaking events our Savior did for us and won the most titanic battle ever. He won, for us! Thank you, Jesus.

Sure, we're also remembering his death, but the tomb is empty and he won, and Passover is kinda like our Independence Day from Satan and his world. Except now we can also call it **DEPENDENCE Day** as we do depend on

Jesus and Father. But there should be a sense of victory and celebration too. I think many of the Passovers I've been to seemed like a funeral or dirge... but it's a victory. We should celebrate his life too. He won.

We're to become as little children, Yeshua said. One of the biggest lessons from children is that they are *so dependent* on mom and Dad for everything. And my webmaster Scott reminded me that when you're away working all day, when you come home children demand your time, they want your attention and want to talk to you and show you things. *We should be the same: Dependent and wanting to spend time with Abba.*

So let's find the balance. Breaking in to the Passover and self-examination:

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**"

"In the same manner He **also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man **examine himself**, and so **LET him eat** of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body.**"

And note that in verse 28 we are to examine OURSELVES, not our pastor, not our spouse or anyone else. Once we have examined ourselves, what does Paul say? "...and so LET HIM EAT of the bread and drink of the cup". Paul's focus here is not on whether or not we take the Passover, but on HOW we take it – and then yes, take it! We are to examine ourselves so we're in a proper state of mind before eating of His bread and drinking of His cup. I'll cover what that means in a couple minutes.

Because Paul does say to “examine yourself” before eating and drinking of Passover, *some decide this means we are to focus on ourselves* for several weeks -- focusing on all our failures, existing issues that remain problematic in our lives, sins we've committed in the past weeks or year, and commit to doing better in the coming year, then take the Passover. It does admittedly say “examine yourselves”. But how and for what purpose?

I think that just focusing on our existing issues will lead to a wrong conclusion. **Paul clearly says that when he focused on issues like coveting, that focus seemed to make him covet all the more.**

Romans 7:7-8 NIV

“What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." 8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, *produced in me every kind of covetous desire.* For apart from law, sin is dead.”

So he goes on to later say – our focus must be on the perfect LIFE of Yeshua who not only saved us, but **continues** to save us as we sin, as 1 John 1:7-9 says. We should instead focus on Yeshua, not on ourselves. As we do that, as 2 Cor. 3:17-18 says, we will be absorbing his glory and become more and more like him.

But when we accept Yeshua/Jesus as our Savior, his blood washes away all our sin.

We've been saved by grace through faith in Messiah (Eph 2:8-9).

But many of you don't believe we can say “we've been saved”, though the Bible says that several times. Especially when we find ourselves still sinning from time to time, even after receiving the Holy Spirit, so it's hard to believe we've been saved.

But now that we're in the body of Christ, his blood CONTINUES to cleanse us. Blood stains. But think of washing sins away by his blood this way, perhaps: **Remember we are now in the very body of Jesus Christ (Eph 5:30-32 – his very flesh and bones, which Paul calls a mystery.**

So now in His body, when I sin, it's like me cutting myself. Christ's body will send out all loads of white blood cells to combat the intruding bacteria from that cut, and keep my body from getting sick. The good white blood cells that die in this “combat” against infection, become pus. But my

body fought “bad” bacteria and cleansed me. In the same way, **we’re BEING SAVED by his life** (Romans 5:10) *that continually fights for us*. It’s in the *ongoing active verb* tense. **“Being saved”** is said three times in the New Covenant. Those of us being saved experience the power of GOD through the cross, as Paul says **in 1 Cor. 1:18**. *So Messiah continues to save us by cleansing us as we sin, as long as we confess and repent, of course.* (On audio I speak of the cross or stake. I can say them all.)

1 John 1:7-9

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we **confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.**”

Understand this ongoing saving that is going on by the being in Yeshua, part of his body, is his ongoing cleansing by his blood. Maybe this is one way we can understand “being saved”, since Christ saves us on an ongoing basis since we still periodically sin in the flesh. But the real you and me now is not our life in the flesh, for now we’re in the spirit if we have God’s Holy Spirit (Rom 8:7-9).

So Paul says we must examine ourselves before taking the Passover bread and wine. But in this examination, by the verses that come just before that, Paul reminds that *we’re partaking of the very body and cup of our Lord.*

My focus in this website has always been to focus on Yeshua, our Savior – and not on ourselves. *We must examine ourselves even as we keep the focus on Yeshua.* I’ll explain as we go along. If our focus is on the self, we will end up either self-righteous (how blind) or very depressed. I say “how blind” because both would be avoided if we focused on Yeshua!

There is another scripture that tells us to “examine whether you be in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). *Our biggest belief in the faith must surely be that Jesus came as the son of God*, lived a perfect life for us so he could offer that perfect life to be sacrificed for all of us, instead of us having to die. And then God the Father resurrected him from the dead and we absolutely believe and confess that.

Story of the sign I saw in a clinic: “3 nails + 1 cross = 4 given”. I asked if the lady was a believer. She said “absolutely”. So she and I talked about the wonderful Savior we have. We are to confess Jesus, publicly. She said she would pray for my finger to be healed.

As very Son of God, his one life covers us all who accept him. And if Christ was not resurrected, then all of this is in vain because we need his perfect life to continue to save us, as we're being saved, from the sins we still sometimes commit. (1 Cor. 15:12-19).

*I believe we are to be so focused on Yeshua pre-Passover. We must come to KNOW HIM personally, feel his presence, we're hearing his voice in strong nudges to do or not do certain things. Paul said (**Philippians 3:9-10**) his biggest quest was "that I may KNOW him and the **power of HIS resurrection**". Paul wanted His MESSIAH now to be HIS own life. This will take what I call "**constant contact**" – as in "pray without ceasing".*

*Have your regular prayer times... if any of you are skipping prayer time altogether, are you ever in trouble! But all throughout the day be making short bursts of prayer to Father and Savior as we thank, bless, plead for help, repent of wrong thoughts ... "UNTIL Christ is formed in you" (**Gal. 4:19**). He is NOW our life.*

Central to examining ourselves is to be sure Jesus the Christ is our life now (Col. 3:3-4; Gal. 2:20-21) and what's happening in our lives is really HIM LIVING and working in us.

WHAT IS The BODY of Christ

We have to esteem and discern the body of Christ before Passover.

1 Cor. 11:27- 29 again

"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so LET him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, **not discerning the Lord's BODY."**

We used to (years ago) emphasize what Jesus himself went through and that was esteeming the body of the Lord. We heard gory details of his scourging, and of his crucifixion, and how that was all done. But the body of Christ is also his body of believers. Read **Colossians 1:24; Col 1:18** – "HE is the head of the body, the Church..."

We brethren and members make up his one body, and that means we are also a part of one another.

Romans 12:4-5 NCV

“Each one of us has a body with many parts, and these parts all have different uses.

5 In the same way, we are many, **but in Christ we are all one body.** *Each one is a part of that body, and each part belongs to all the other parts.”*

In context before and after this passage, *besides starting with the actual body and life of Christ – “this is MY body”... Paul was also addressing how we’re interacting with brethren – the other “body of Christ”.*

Paul was concerned how the Corinthians were observing the Passover meal and service in Corinth. That’s the context of what follows. Some were getting drunk, others were pigging out, while still others had nothing, and nobody waited for anyone. God was not being glorified, and the body of Christ – the poor individual members especially – were being disregarded and ignored, and some were going hungry (see 1 Cor 11:20-22, 29-32).

In context, Paul is also talking about examining their mindset and behavior with other believers as they came to Passover. Paul wants more consideration for the poor members of the body of Christ and wants there to be more orderliness in the proceedings. You’ll see that Paul is very focused on loving one another and treating brothers and sisters in Christ with respect.

BUT what do we find in Corinth going on? As well as in the body of Christ today? There were factions (1 Cor. 1:10-12). “I’m of Peter, I’m of Paul, I’m of Barnabas. I’m a Church of God. I’m a Hebrew Roots, I’m Messianic” ... but stop it. **There were doctrinal differences** between the brethren, but Paul didn’t put them out of the church, but taught it correctly (like on the resurrections). They were suing each other in court. They were not building on the foundation of Christ with gold, silver and precious stones. There was open sex sin being tolerated within the membership as today with open fornication and shacking up going on. There were marriage issues – and even forbidding people exercising the gifts of the spirit.

If you admitted to “praying in the spirit”, that was somehow bad? We are to live in the spirit, walk in the spirit, worship in the spirit, worship God in spirit and truth, justified in the spirit – but do we “cancel” someone who doesn’t believe exactly like you do? Let’s not be so harsh on each other.

So God's church – usually referred to in **scripture as the Believers, Church of God is used 7-8 times, Church of the Firstborn (Heb 12:23) and Christians (Acts 11:26)**. I like “believers” (Acts 5:14; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 6:2; 2 Cor. 6:15). Maybe some of us put up walls from others who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior – the main doctrine – because they don't go by our other beliefs, but their witnessing to Christ may be stronger than ours.

So we're “proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes” – so obviously it's a time when we come solemnly to drink and eat of Christ. But neither should Passover feel like a dirge or funeral. We've just had our massive sin debt – our life – paid for. We've just experienced the victory over sin and Satan. Though we still sin sometimes, Jesus' blood even cleanses those as we acknowledge them and repent.

But keep in mind: all of us, even after repenting, still commit some of those very same sins – coveting, rage, lust, idolatry, lack of faith, worrying – so stop already, some of you, with the notion that “if she really repented, why does she still do the same sins.” Do you never gossip anymore? Do you never lose faith? Even Abraham lied *twice* about Sarah being his sister and neglected to say she was his wife. Twice. But I will take Passover because He continues to CLEANSE me. **1 John 1:7-9** – one of my favorite passages.

Then in **1 Cor. 11:27-28** – after examining yourself, take the bread, take the cup, and eat and drink with confidence. We do use real red **wine** ourselves. At the **marriage feast in Cana** which was also just before Passover (**John 2:1-11**), it definitely was the best wine possible that Messiah multiplied, not grape juice. But... if you're alcoholic or your church uses grape juice, I guess it too, is “the fruit of the vine”, which is what Jesus called what was in the cup (Matthew 26:29; Luke 22:18).

Connection of Passover ATTITUDES to SICKNESS and Healings

WHY must we be examining ourselves fully? So we're not disciplined by God. So we can see more healings – which Paul directly connects to Passover attitudes. AND so we're not guilty of the body and blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:29

“For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

30 For THIS REASON many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.”

Paul is clearly saying: you're having a lot of people not being healed and even dying because you're not honoring and esteeming the body of Christ.

Have you noticed: we could sure use some healings? I've had dramatic healings here and there in my life, including cancer, but other times – nothing. Prayer requests galore, but who's getting miraculously healed?

Maybe a big reason we're not seeing lots of healing is that we must start esteeming the brethren and other fellowships more highly. It's the same principle of **1 Peter 3:7**, where husbands are told to esteem and honor their wives "lest your prayers be hindered"

To many of us don't regard or esteem other believers if they are not a part of our corporate denomination or fellowship or if they believe slightly differently than we do. God is not going to be boxed in! We find reasons to believe other believers "aren't really converted" or don't have God's spirit. Be careful. Paul says this leads to unanswered prayers when we mistreat one another. **Peter teaches the same! The same principle is in 1 Peter 3:7 to husbands, that we should honor our wives "lest your prayers be hindered"**. Our prayers for healing are obviously being hindered. Consider how you're treating members of God's family – or even your own spouse.

Are you seeing a lot of prayer requests for healing not going answered? Think. Paul tells us right here it could be because of the way we treat one another.

So what can WE do to help heal the body and bring people together? Those not gathering are scattering, Yeshua said (Luke 11:23). Visit other fellowships that have believers near you. Let your visits be a testimony that you're not a part of the scattering. You don't have to confine yourself to one fellowship. Discern, Esteem the body of Christ.

Commit to being more zealous in the coming year. Commit to more prayer time, more Bible study, **less wasted time with social media and useless movies**. Time is short. By 2030, it will be 2,000 years since Christ was crucified and raised again. Soon after 2030, we'll be into the "3rd day". "A thousand years is as a day" principle, now notice this:

Hosea 6:1-2

"Come, and let us return to YHVH;
For He has torn, but He will heal us;
He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

**2 After two days He will revive us;
On the third day He will raise us up,
That we may live in His sight.”**

I have lots more I could discuss, but let's go pray more, please rededicate your life to Yeshua and Father. Cherish your high, high calling.

I recommend you check out this teaching about cherishing your high calling:
<https://lightontherock.org/videos/message/6-reasons-to-cherish-your-calling-as-firstfruits-pentecost-2019.html?highlight=WyJjaGVyaXNoIiwiaGlnaClIsImhpZ2gncyIsImNhbGxpbmciLCJoaWdoIGNhbGxpbmciXQ==>

---Another place says to examine yourself to see if you're in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.”

--- Examine yourself to see if you are bringing God glory in everything you do and say – or are you mired in terrible ongoing sins that must stop!?! “Do all to the glory of God.” **1 Cor. 10:31**

---Examine yourself to see if you really trust Him and not worrying so much anymore. Examine yourself to verify you are focused on HIM and have total and complete faith in him to finish what he started in you (Philippians 1:6), or do you focus on yourself instead of him?

---Examine yourself to see if you are grateful for all he has done for you. Even for the tough times of life. We often grow the most during times of testing. Examine yourself to see if you are showing appreciation for our Master.

---Examine yourself to see if you are seeking Him with all your heart and letting Him live in you again. If we seek him with all our heart, we're promised we will surely find him. Let this coming year be a banner year of seeking God.

Isaiah 55:6-7

**“Seek YHVH while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon”**

If we do these things, for sure come to Passover and take the bread, drink of the cup. The cup symbolizes the blood of Christ, true – **but the “Cup” was also a metaphor for accepting whatever God sends our way.** Even Yeshua in Gethsemane, prayed that if possible this cup of crucifixion could pass from him, “but not my will, but yours be done.” **(Luke 22:41-44).** Drinking of that cup meant living with God in faith, no matter what.

WORTHY?

You may not feel worthy of the Passover, so join the company of John the Baptist – “not worthy to loosen Yeshua’s sandal straps” **(John 1:27)**. Join Paul, who felt unworthy to be called an apostle (1 Cor. 15:9). But we **ARE** called to counted worthy of the kingdom (2 Thes 1:5) and to walk worthy of our Lord and be pleasing him. *In the end, those truly worthy are God the Father (Revelation 4:11) and Jesus Christ (Revelation 5:6-9).*

When we are IN Christ, and he is now our life, and HE is the one worthy, we also become worthy and IN HIM. Then we can take the Passover in a worthy manner. That’s how we take the Passover in a worthy manner: by graciously rejoicing that we have been accepted to be IN HIM and a deep consciousness that HE saves you, loves you.

WE become worthy now because Christ, our life, is worthy. And you can take Passover with confidence.

Now that you and I can be *IN HIM*, guess what? That means we’re seen as worthy now too, if our “lives are hidden in Christ in God” (Col. 3:3); if Christ is now our very own life. Ask Jesus to help you be worthy and to come be his life in you.

*So Paul is NOT speaking about being good enough or righteous enough so now we can take the Passover. No. I examine myself and decide I really, really NEED this Passover and look forward to the positive message behind the bread and the wine of Passover. I want to be sure God sees the blood of the Lamb over me so He will pass over my sins too. **I want to be sure I’ve forgiven all who have sinned against me, that I may be forgiven.***

And I want to take Passover having also forgiven MYSELF of all my own past sins. I find that hard to do. Many of us do. We can more easily accept, believe and understand that GOD has forgiven us of everything, when we see the forgiving hearts of the brethren for those of us struggling with forgiving ourselves.

Forgiving ourselves becomes so much easier when others who know or hear about our sins, do forgive us and accept us back, as the story in 2 Cor. 2 about the repentant sinner who had been kicked out of the church. Paul told them to love him and welcome him back in. Isn't this also a way of esteeming and honoring Christ, who forgives us, and a way to honor the brethren by forgiving and accepting them too?

Let's help others forgive themselves by seeing the love and forgiveness for them in our own hearts.

I find it fascinating that the sinners of Yeshua's day gravitated to Him, the most holy man on earth (see **Luke 15:1-3**). They did not feel condemned from Jesus though the religious people all distanced themselves from them. Look how forgiving and accepting Jesus was of **Zacchaeus**, a known thieving sinner. But Jesus went to his home and celebrated his *salvation*. Read **Luke 19:1-10**.

Or the woman caught in the act of adultery (**John 8:1-12**). "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more," Yeshua said. In the strength of not being condemned, it would have been easier for her to move on in life with more righteous living.

Neither of those 2 had any "track record" yet of righteousness, but they were forgiven by the Son of God anyway. We tend to refuse forgiveness if someone makes the same mistakes and sins. Jesus said if one sins against **you even seven times in one day (Luke 17:3-4)**, imagine that! We still must forgive him/her. *Why? Because God and Jesus know that they often have to forgive US over and over for the same sins.* In fact we should be forgiving others even up to 70 x 7, to make the point (**Matthew 18:21-22**). Why else would Jesus have said that?

And as I examine for Passover, I realize every single one of my sins – and your sins --have been forgiven – yes, even "that" one. Satan's head has been crushed. We're washed and covered in the blood of Messiah – and when Father sees the blood, God will Pass Over our sins. That's where the word "Passover" comes from (**Exodus 12:13, 23**).

PRAISE YAH! HALLELU YAH! Let's focus on the victory we have in Jesus. Have a most meaningful Passover and be sure to examine yourself and then come and eat of his bread and drink of his cup.

Closing prayer.