

Title: WE CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL, 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8
(Chatham, NJ; 04/20/14, AM) [Pd – Topical]

Theme: We celebrate with great joy the sacrifice of our Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Purpose: To trace the promise of hope and redemption from the prophets to the resurrection and down to us, and to encourage us to share the celebration of salvation today and always.

I. First Meditation – Isaiah 25:6-9, God Will Swallow Up Death

- A. “On this mountain” (6)
 1. A rich feast for all peoples
 2. Isaiah 2:2-3 people will stream to God’s mountain
 3. The law will go forth from Jerusalem

- B. God will swallow up and destroy (7-8) these things:
 1. The covering and veil – one that blinds us; he will open our eyes
 2. Death
 3. Tears and reproach
 4. “Be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (9)

- C. The experience of struggle, deprivation, and suffering precedes the celebration
 1. Brandeis and Ayaan Hirsi Ali: her experiences as a Muslim woman have encouraged her to speak out for freedom
 2. Book on being a slave in Africa – created much awareness in early 19th century about the horrors of slavery
 3. The reality of God’s salvation means more to people who endure suffering

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II. Second Meditation – Luke 24:32, Hope Rekindled

- Men on the road to Emmaus: a tale of hope and confusion (19-24)
- They longed to see prophecies fulfilled
- And hope rekindled, 32
- Their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures unfolded
- The return to Jerusalem was a return to the mountain of God and to the hope of God’s redemption

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III. Third Meditation – 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Celebrate the Festival

- All this occurred during the Jewish Passover, a celebration of God’s redemption
- From the time that John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God, now finally the disciples were able to piece all this together
- Passover = Redemption = Resurrection
- Death of Christ = Sacrifice of the Passover Lamb
- Verse 8 – we celebrate the festival: our Passover festival is not just for a week or a day but for a lifetime. “It is a festival the whole time we live.” (Chrysostom)
- We celebrate not with malice and evil, but with sincerity and truth
- Today we find joy in the resurrection; we celebrate the hope it gives us.

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