

SPRING CLEANING

Article by Pastor Matt Steendahl reprinted from April 2019 Trinity Tidings

This time of year, usually gives people an excuse to clean as the term spring cleaning is all too familiar. Sometimes we need an excuse to get the job done and springtime can be just that excuse. I am not 100% positive on the origins of spring cleaning, but I do know there is a correlation between the cleaning and the ancient Jewish Passover preparations. Homes had to be cleaned to the point where not one piece of yeast was left in the house. Yeast, or Leaven, is often considered symbolic of the sin that is in our lives. There are some striking similarities between the two. Sin is like Leaven in so many ways; a little bit can affect the whole batch, it is hard to get rid of, etc.

1 Corinthians 5:6-7 – Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Let this be a spiritual reminder to you. The next time you are cleaning, whether it be for spring, or any other reason, ask yourself what "spiritual cleaning" do you need to do. What sin are you hiding under the carpet? What deed have you left undone? What continual thought do you need to deal with? Take that sin to the Lord and ask for forgiveness.

Psalm 51:1-2 – Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Then remember that the most wonderful blessing of the Christian faith is that Christ has done the cleaning work for you. Put your faith and hope in Him, and he will wash you clean. It is a daily process for the Christian to come to Jesus and to repent of their sin. The blessing in that daily "cleaning", is that you are indeed washed. And unlike behind the refrigerator, Christ did all the work for you.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together", says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

As cleansed people set apart for God, we press on to live the life God has called us to so that others can see the Love of God working in the world and so come to know His love through our service.