



FAMILY STUDY

A Little Yeast...



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"A Little Yeast..."

Truth + Falsehood = Falsehood

In a world which sees most everything as shades of gray, it can be hard to remember that the Truth of God's Word is black and white. So often, people want to mix a little bit of man's "wisdom" in with God's Word. Man's wisdom, however, is foolishness if it does not originate in the fear of the Lord. As a result, trying to mix ungodly "wisdom" with God's Truth results in falsehood.

There are numerous examples of this. For example, there are Christians who can't resist the temptation to mix Darwinism into their Biblical understanding of the creation of the world. Others try to mix worldly values such as the acceptance of homosexuality in with Biblical values. The trouble is, such worldly "wisdom" is completely at odds with God's Word. Sadly, many churches have tried to integrate such worldly "wisdom" into their doctrine, resulting in countless people being taught tainted messages from the pulpit.

The truth is, God has given us the standard for Truth in His Word, and anything that stands at odds with God's Truth is to be rejected. To compromise between truth and falsehood results in falsehood. We encourage you to study the Scripture passages from this study with your family this week and consider the importance of taking an uncompromising stand for God's Truth.

Yeast: A Symbol for Death

In the Old Testament, yeast was used many times as a symbol of death. Yeast are single-celled organisms which, when included in bread dough, die during baking, resulting in air pockets forming throughout the bread. In other words, the death of these yeast cells is what makes bread rise.

God often called for the Israelites to make their bread WITHOUT yeast, reminding them that God was delivering them from death to life. Yeast was also a symbol for sin (which causes death). As the following Scripture passages point out, a small amount of sin, evil, or yeast, can quickly work its way through a whole batch of dough until it destroys much larger things.

Luke 12:1
1 Corinthians 5:4-8
Galatians 5:7-10

A Little Evil "Yeast" Sours the Dough

Although yeast is not specifically mentioned in the following Scripture passages, the principle is the same. A small amount of evil can corrupt much larger things.

1 Kings 11:1-4
Proverbs 6:10-11
Ecclesiastes 9:18
Ecclesiastes 10:1
Jeremiah 23:15
Mark 15:9-13
Acts 13:6-8
Romans 2:23-24
1 Cor. 15:33-34
James 3:4-5

Worldly Wisdom: A Study of 1 Corinthians 1:17-29

The world is always trying to mix its yeast into our hearts, and the world's "wisdom" is a type of yeast which is constantly growing. In First Corinthians chapter one, Paul compares the "wisdom" of the world to God's wisdom, showing how much the two are at odds. Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-29 and ask yourself why a believer in Christ would care to mix the yeast of worldly "wisdom" in with the Bread of Life.

The End Result of Worldly Wisdom: Romans 1:21-28

We've seen that the "wisdom" of man is foolishness to God. Yet, many people not only try to mix the "wisdom" of the world with God's wisdom, they also turn their backs on God's wisdom altogether. This puts people at risk of being "given over" by God to their foolishness. Read Romans 1:21-28 to see what the result can be of accepting worldly "wisdom."

Bread Without "Yeast"

In John 6:35, Jesus called Himself the "Bread of Life." How can the Bread of Life have any death—or yeast—in Him? The same is true of God's Word and His righteousness. We must eliminate the "yeast" of evil, ungodliness, and falsehood from our lives or risk corrupting much bigger things.

Proverbs 10:31
Isaiah 52:11
Col. 3:5
Matthew 5:29-30
Matthew 18:8-9
Mark 9:43-48
Acts 2:40
Romans 6:6-7
Romans 8:13-14
2 Corinthians 6:14-15
Ephesians 5:11
Col. 2:11-12
2 Thess. 3:6

Influencing the World

While there are plenty of ways in which we could compare the evils and falsehoods of the world with yeast, Jesus did make one POSITIVE comparison to yeast. In Luke 13:20-21, the Lord compared the kingdom of God to yeast, pointing out that the things of God can penetrate our world in much the same way that evil does. Here, then, are a number of Scripture passages we can be encouraged by.

Matthew 5:13-16
Mark 9:50
Luke 13:20-21
1 Corinthians 9:2
1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
1 Timothy 2:1-4
1 Timothy 2:1-4
1 Timothy 2:1-4
1 Peter 3:1-7

Rise Up!

We don't need yeast to rise. We have the Truth of God. We do not need the world's "wisdom," which sets itself up against God's Word. Nor do we need the world's ways when they set themselves up against God. We have the Truth. We need not blend anything worldly or contrary into it. So, rather than allowing the world to shape your thinking, let your thoughts be shaped by God's Truth instead, and work on influencing the world through godliness!