

## Passover

Ponder: Staying in the house

Scripture: “By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them” (Heb. 11:28, NKJV).

Are you tired of staying at home yet? You know, of course, that doing so is in everyone’s best interest, including your own.

The calendar says today is the first day of Passover. You remember from reading Exodus about the ten plagues God brought upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The final plague was the death of the firstborn. But the Israelites also lived in Egypt and would have suffered the devastation of this plague had not the Lord provided a way for them to escape it. Each household was to slaughter and eat a year-old male lamb, applying the blood of that lamb to the top and side of the doorway. And God told them to stay inside the house! Only then would the Lord “pass over” the house so that its firstborn would not be killed.

If someone told you that applying lamb’s blood to the door of your house would save you from COVID-19 you would probably write them off as a lunatic! (And rightly so – God’s word doesn’t tell us any such thing.) But that is what God told Moses and the Israelites to do, and Moses obeyed by faith. They had to stay inside the house only one night, but it still required obedient trust in God.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians that “Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7). Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). His blood saves us from eternal spiritual death. We apply His blood by being immersed for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, see also Matt. 26:28). Having applied that precious blood, we must remain in “the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

Remaining inside our earthly residences becomes wearisome quickly. But staying within God’s spiritual temple, the church, ought to bring us endless joy!

Song: “I Love Thy Church, O God”

Prayer: Gracious God of Heaven, we praise and thank You for the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us. May we always be content to remain within Your house, that we may be delivered forever from eternal death. In Jesus’ name, Amen.