

## **Single Alliance**

**050706**

### **Who are you?- "Born Righteous"**

#### **I. Leaven**

A. Matthew 16:5-7

1. They forgot to take bread and Jesus warned them about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees
  - a. Leaven is added to puff something up to make it look bigger. It is filled with air.

B. Leaven of Pharisees is legalism- trying to be righteous by works. Leaven of Sadducees is the avoidance of righteousness by worldliness. These two philosophies can and do permeate society and many lives. Legalism and worldliness. Both are a distortion of righteousness. One is righteousness by works the other is the avoidance of righteousness by being caught up in natural life.

1. Galatians 5:7-9- leaven of legalism
2. 1 Cor. 5-3-7- leaven of worldliness and sin

#### **II. Born Righteous**

A. The Pharisees were always trying to earn righteousness and heaven.

1. Luke 18:10-14- The Pharisee was self righteous
2. Jesus mentioned the sinner that repented went home justified. Some would think Jesus was saying that mere repentance saves a sinner, but it is clear that repentance and faith saves and justifies.
3. Luke 18:15-17- You must be born righteous
4. Luke 18:18-27- Jesus shows that law keeping can't make righteous but only the miracle of the new birth can.

B. John 3:1-3

### **III. The gift of righteousness**

A. When we were born again we were given the gift of righteousness

1. Romans 5:17

B. Righteousness is both imputed -put on account- and imparted at the new birth

C. Righteousness means "being right". Positionally we have righteousness with God- right standing. But also we were made righteous by the new birth. It was imparted into our spiritual natures. Many do not realize this or believe this.

1. Ephesians 4:24

D. Imparted righteousness means we are just as we ought to be. We ourselves meet God's standard. That is why if you dropped dead right now you would immediately enter heaven. You are qualified for heaven right now!

1. Colossians 1:12

E. God sees the old you dead and buried and you are a new righteous person in Christ!

### **IV. Casting out the leaven**

A. We often feel a void in our natural lives. Our natural lives do not seem to measure up to God's standards. We see that we come up short in our lives so we often add leaven to puff up our lives and make it look fuller.

B. Often we will get into works and try to make our lives right by our own efforts. We perform religion acts to feel better about ourselves and look right to others. We try to heal ourselves, provide for ourselves, try to fix our problems, overcome our weaknesses.

C. Or, we try to fill that void by avoiding the things of God and try to puff up our lives with stuff and the things of the world. There is a problem in our Christian life if we live a worldly life. We do not really believe we are righteous. We

are avoiding righteousness because we feel we do not measure up.

D. God has given righteousness as a gift. It has been deposited on the inside by faith. You will see this righteousness expand and fill our lives by faith. This takes longer than the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. We must believe that God has made us what we ought to be and act on that belief.

E. Believe that he has made you holy and you will then manifest holiness. Believe he has freed you and you will experience freedom! Except the gift. Cast away the leaven! Just say no!

F. Examine your life for leaven. During the Feast of Unleavened bread each house got rid of all the leaven in the house. They used lamps to search for it. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate to you any leaven in your life. Any leaven of works to try to make yourself right instead of receiving it by faith? Any leaven of worldliness that is side-tracking your walk with God?

G. Pray