

LESSON 7

EXCEPT YE EAT MY FLESH

Scripture Texts: *John 6:51-63; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 John 5:12; 2 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 10:16; John 4:14; 1 Corinthians 1:30*

The process in physical life is to be born to live and eat to keep living. In this lesson we will study the spiritual analogy to this. Be born of the Spirit (Lesson 1) to live, partake of Christ to nourish that life, and grow in grace. If a soul brought to life is not fed, it will soon die. Matthew 5:6 teaches us the truth of this. Open your heart wide to Him. Hunger for and desire Him. Could failure to do this explain the loss of many souls from the rank of the newly saved?



MEMORY VERSE: *"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."*

John 6:53

Eating Christ's Flesh

How does one eat and drink of Christ? In John 6:51-58 the people questioned Jesus' comparison of Himself to the manna God gave the Israelites. The very thought of eating Christ's flesh was repulsive to the Jews. The manna was a type of Jesus, the true Bread from Heaven that nourishes the spiritual life of man. When Jesus said we must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have life, He spoke of our spiritual life that is much more important than our physical life. Unless we take Christ into ourselves, unless we open our hearts wide and take Him in to live there, we are dead souls. First Corinthians 10:1-4 tells us that all the people partook of Christ even back in Moses' day. They were partaking of spiritual meat and spiritual drink. First Corinthians 10:16-17 speaks of the blood and body of Christ.

In John 6:51-63 Jesus made it clear that He was speaking figuratively, as a parable, saying flesh to mean spirit. He pictured the relative value of the flesh and the spirit. What a vast difference. Do we value them as He does? In Galatians 6:8 we find the Spirit to be life and the flesh to be death. The Bible is God's written Word. It is a living Book because it leads us to Christ, who is life. Jesus is the living Word. To eat and drink of Christ, we must begin by reading, but the Bible's benefit comes only when we go on to believe, accept, and obey it. Only when His Words come to abide in us (John 15:7) do they lead on to Christ and life. Seek Him in His Word and in prayer, ready to obey. Commune with Him, letting thought, worship, fellowship, and love flow freely back and forth between you and Him.

This Is My Body

When Jesus spoke of our eating His flesh and drinking His blood, He did not mean in the communion supper, as spoken of in Matthew 26:26-28. He said the flesh profiteth nothing. The supper is material or fleshly. It cannot give spiritual life or virtue to the partakers. If so, why are we required to examine ourselves first lest we eat and drink unworthily?

Visible, material forms (the Lord's Supper, baptism, feet washing) are symbols of spiritual realities. By themselves they have no value. When we possess the reality for which it stands, the symbol has sacred meaning. When one has Christ's life within, he may rightly partake of the symbol as a testimony to that fact.

What Christ Brings In

When we partake of Christ's flesh and blood, that is, take Him into our hearts, He brings in all that He is. In Him we have:

LIFE (1 John 5:12): God is the Author of all life. Without Him no life exists. We can have no spiritual life except by having Jesus Christ within. Having a religious form, joining a church, being baptized, taking communion, doing good works, reforming, striving, or good living—none of these can make the soul live. Christ's entrance does.

DIVINE NATURE (2 Peter 1:4): Through knowing Jesus and His Father we have all things that pertain unto life and godliness. By believing and complying with His promises, we have the divine nature—the nature of God. Jesus promised that if we abide in Him and He abides in us, we will bring forth much fruit (John 15:5). This fruit is godliness, holiness, and spiritual graces that are Christ-like (Galatians 5:22-23). The divine nature is planted when Christ enters at our repentance and increases as we walk with Him in obedience each day.

LAWS OF GOD (Hebrews 10:16): One who is eating or taking in Christ has God's laws written in his being. Thus, doing God's will is neither dreary drudgery nor an unwilling task. Although it costs hard work and suffering at times, the motives and desires of the heart accord with God's laws. The impulse of our hearts will be to do right.

CONSTANT SUPPLY (John 4:14): The living water Jesus brings into a heart refreshes and gives life to the soul. It becomes a spring ever flowing. It is eternal life begun in this world. It flows into an overflowing stream, drawing others to the Lord (John 7:37-39).

ALL WE NEED (1 Corinthians 1:30): Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. What more do we need? Colossians 2:9-10 tells us that in Him we have all—a completeness. His death bought all. If an unbroken connection runs from the power plant to our house, it brings a flow of electricity to supply light, heat, and power for any variety of needs. Christ in us is our supply for any need here and also the perfect life to come. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

JUST A THOUGHT

**What is in the well of your heart will show up
in the bucket of your speech.**