

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

FOOD THAT ENDURES TO ETERNAL LIFE

John 6:27 “Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.”

The first verses of John 6 record the miracle of Jesus feeding 5,000 from dividing up “five barley loaves and two fish” (John 6:9) and having His disciples distribute this food to the crowd. When all had eaten until their hunger was satisfied, Jesus’ disciples gathered up twelve baskets of “fragments from what had been eaten.” (John 6:12)

Food is a basic necessity for life. Human beings can go for several weeks without food, if they have an adequate supply of water, but eventually, without food they will die. Living in a country where food was often hard to grow, scarcity of it was at times the norm, the Jews were attracted to Jesus’ ministry. After the miraculous feeding of 5,000, the crowd got into boats and followed Jesus to Capernaum. (John 6:25)

When the crowd found Jesus, He said to them, “. . .you are seeking me, not because you saw signs (miracles) but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” (John 6 26) Jesus went on, as He often did, to teach an important spiritual truth. He said to them, “Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give to you.” (John 6:27)

As was so often the case, the people were following Jesus hoping to receive from Him blessings that would make their earthly life easier. Jesus had far more to offer them than what they desired. They wanted bread that they would need every day for the rest of their earthly lives. Jesus, came to offer them bread that would give them a life that would never end.

Yahweh sent His Son Jesus to convey eternal life to you. He, the Father, who has life in Himself, gave His Son to have life in Himself. Jesus then promises that whoever “believes in Him has eternal life.” (John 6:47) “I am the living bread that

came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. . .
“whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” (John 6:51,58)

It is not the mere act of eating; it is the person to whom you are joined by your eating that matters. Only your receiving Jesus, being joined to Him and He to you, provides you with a life that will never end. Your heavenly Father sent Jesus as the only source for you to receive eternal, everlasting life.

Prayer: O God, draw me ever closer to Your Son Jesus through Your word that I may through Him live for all eternity. Amen.

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Pron= e to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.
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