

Let's Worship God

28th Dec. 2020 - 2nd Jan. 2021

John



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Monday - John 6:52-59 - Eating and Drinking

Let's look, first of all, at what these verses don't mean. They don't mean a literal eating and drinking of Christ. And they don't refer necessarily to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We may eat the Lord's Supper, and yet not eat and drink Christ's body and blood. We may eat and drink Christ's body and blood, and yet not eat the Lord's Supper. How do we know these verses aren't to be taken literally? Three reasons. First, Jewish law forbids cannibalism. This idea is completely revolting to all Jews. Secondly, Scripture repeatedly teaches that only repentance and faith are necessary to be saved. We are never told that we need to perform some physical act such as eating and drinking in order to be saved. Finally, to take this literally means that the thief who dies on the cross is never saved. Does Christ lie to him when He tells the thief he will be in paradise? The thief never eats or drinks before he dies. In addition, many eat and drink the Lord's Supper who have no faith at all. Do they automatically go to heaven?

So, what does it mean? The "flesh and blood of the Son of Man" means the sacrifice of His own body which Christ offers up on the cross when He dies for sinners. The "eating and drinking" refers to when a man believes on Christ crucified for salvation. It is an inward act of the heart, and has nothing to do with the body. Whenever a man, feeling his own guilt and sinfulness, lays hold on Christ, and trusts in the atonement made for him by Christ's death, at once he "eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of man." His soul feeds on Christ's sacrifice by faith, just as his body feeds on bread.

Questions

1. Do we literally eat and drink Christ?
2. What is Jesus talking about here?
3. What must we do to be saved?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for wisdom in understanding the Word of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4b

Praise: Psalm 101 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Tuesday - John 6:60-65 - Difficult Sayings

To some Christ's sayings are hard to understand. To others, they are hard to believe and harder still to obey. As long as the heart is naturally proud, worldly, unbelieving, self-centred, and sinful, there is no lack of people who say about Christianity, "This is too hard." We need humility. We need grace to understand. We need a new heart and a new desire that drives us to God when we come up against something we can't get our head round. We need to ask the Lord Jesus Christ to make things clear to us and to give us the ability to obey even when we don't understand.

We must be careful not to put an earthly meaning on spiritual words. Jesus is teaching that the Holy Spirit gives new life and new hearts to men and women and then sustains and keeps up that life. If the Jews think He means that man can have spiritual life by bodily eating or drinking they are greatly mistaken. Neither Jesus' flesh nor any other flesh, literally eaten, can do good to the soul. Spiritual benefit comes not through the mouth, but through the heart. The soul is not a material thing, and can't be fed by material food. Christ's words and teachings, applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, are the true means of bringing spiritual life.

Christ has a perfect knowledge of the hearts of men. He knows the sorrow and humiliation ahead of Him and the way He is going to die. He knows the unbelief and treachery of some who claim to be His closest friends. We can't deceive Christ. It's foolish to be a hypocrite. Jesus sees us, knows us, and will call us to account for ourselves on the last day. But besides the hypocrisy of some, Christ also sees the faithfulness of others. No matter how ignored or misunderstood we are, Christ does not forget us, and He sees all we do for Him.

Questions

1. What should we do when we come across something in the Bible we don't understand?
2. Where does eternal life come from?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4b

Praise: Psalm 102 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Wednesday - John 6:66-71 - Hypocrisy and Faith

The church is full of people like the men and women described in these verses who stop following Jesus. They look like genuine Christians, they talk like genuine Christians, they even live like genuine Christians, but when they hit a temptation big enough or a trial hard enough, it shows there's no real heart faith there at all. They are like the seed in the parable of the sower that is thrown on rocky ground and never takes root. But we can't let this discourage us. We need to accept that until the day of judgement, there will be weeds mixed in with the wheat, and sometimes it will be very hard to tell the difference.

Look at the great declaration of faith the Apostle Peter makes. It's easy for us to just read right over this without it sinking in. This was an amazing thing for Peter to say. For a humble Jew to say of one whom the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees agreed in rejecting, "You have the words of eternal life. . . You are the Holy One of God," is an act of mighty faith. The question with which he starts is just as amazing. To whom shall we go? Where can we find any better guide to heaven? What will we gain by leaving you? Who else can show us eternal life? These are questions we can ask ourselves when we are urged and tempted to give up our faith. Where will we go? Where will we find such peace, and hope, and solid comfort as in serving Christ?

If ever there was a man who had great privileges and opportunities, that man was Judas Iscariot. But those aren't enough. It isn't our position, our understanding, our friends, or our opportunities, but grace that we need in order to be a Christian. Without grace we can live in the presence of Christ Himself, and like Judas be lost forever.

Questions

1. What makes the difference between someone who looks like a Christian and someone who really is a Christian?
2. What questions should we ask when tempted to turn from Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of your family, friends, and neighbours.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4b

Praise: Psalm 103 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Thursday - John 7:1-13 - Unbelief

Even Jesus' brothers do not believe Him. Holy, and harmless, and blameless as He is in life, some of His nearest relatives do not receive Him as the Messiah. Seeing Christ's miracles, hearing Christ's teaching, living in Christ's own company, is not enough to make men believers. Just having spiritual privileges does not make anyone a Christian. Everything is useless without the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ knows how to sympathise with us when we try to explain and talk about Him to those we love, and they just don't believe. He knows what that frustration and discouragement is like.

Jesus explains in these verses why many hate Him. Men hate Jesus because He points out their sins. He makes them feel guilty. They don't mind abstract doctrines, they hate being told how to live. And the Bible is constantly telling us how to live. To speak vaguely of loving each other, nobody minds that, but to call men and women sinners, to urge them to repent, and trust in the righteousness of Christ alone, and then to live their life in obedience to Him - nobody likes to hear this.

From the very beginning of His ministry there are a number of strange and varied opinions about Christ. And these strange and varied opinions have continued even today. Christ is the cause of divisions among men wherever He is preached. So long as the world exists, some, when they hear of Him, will love, and some will hate - some will believe, and some will not. What do you think of Christ yourself? Don't be ashamed to be part of those who believe on Him, hear His voice, follow Him, and speak of Him before men. The children of the world may hate us, but the last day will show that we chose wisely.

Questions

1. What do Jesus' brothers think of Him?
2. Why do people hate Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would live boldly as Christians.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4b

Praise: Psalm 104 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Friday - John 7:14-24 - Obedience, Humility, and Judgement

Honest obedience to God is one way to obtain clear spiritual knowledge. The secret of getting the key of understanding God and what He says in His Word, is to practice honestly what we do know, and we'll soon begin to understand other things we don't know. In other words, as you obey the parts of the Bible you understand, God will make the other parts more clear. As you faithfully follow God, He will help you to understand more and more about who He is and how He wants you to live. It's foolish to say that you're not going to put your faith in Christ until you understand every aspect of the Word of God. There are many plain and clear statements in the Word of God. Act on those and greater understanding will come.

Jesus also teaches in these verses that true ministers don't try to exalt themselves, but they desire to exalt God. They see in themselves nothing but sin and unworthiness, and praise the grace of God for using them. The scribes and Pharisees are a perfect example of those who want to get praise for themselves. On the other hand, Paul, throughout his writings, shows great humility and a desire for Christ to be glorified. The real man of God will love to praise and honour the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus warns here against making a hasty judgement. The Jews at Jerusalem are ready to condemn Christ as a sinner against the law of Moses, because He has healed on the Sabbath. They forget in their blind hatred that the fourth commandment is not meant to prevent works of necessity or mercy. We are too ready to be deceived by appearances. We consider some to be very good Christians because of the way they look and talk and others not to be Christians at all because of a few faults or inconsistencies. We need to judge righteous judgement, and above all make sure that we aren't judging ourselves by appearances either.

Questions

1. How should we deal with the parts of the Bible we don't understand?
2. How do we know if someone is a true man of God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the minister as he prepares his sermons for the Lord's Day.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4b

Praise: Psalm 105 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Saturday - John 7:25-36 - Ignorance and Power

The unbelieving Jews are stubbornly blind about who Christ is. They deny that Jesus is the Messiah based on the facts that they know where He comes from and, according to them, no one knows where the Messiah comes from. But they are wrong. They think Jesus is born at Nazareth and is a Galilean. But the fact is that our Lord is born at Bethlehem, that He belongs legally to the tribe of Judah, and He is of the line of David. The Jews could have found all this out if they had bothered to honestly search it out. Their ignorance is without excuse. There is also a well-known prophecy, with which the whole nation is familiar, that Christ is to come out of the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). And yet they've seemingly forgotten this and claim they don't know where the Messiah will come from. There are many today just as blind as the Jews. They shut their eyes against the plainest facts and teachings of Christianity. They pretend to say they do not understand and can't therefore believe. But they choose not to understand. They do not believe what they do not like to believe. They will not read, or listen, or search, or think, or ask after truth.

God overrules all His enemies. The Jews have the will to hurt Christ, but by an invisible restraint from above, they don't have the power. All our Lord's sufferings are undergone voluntarily. He doesn't go to the cross because He can't help it. All that Jesus' enemies do is under control and by permission. We live in a world where God overrules all times and events, and where nothing can happen but by God's permission. The very hairs of our head are numbered. Sorrow, sickness, poverty, and persecution can never touch us unless God sees fit. The hand of God guides and governs all things and makes no mistakes.

Questions

1. How are the Jews wrong about Jesus?
2. Why are they unable to kill Him at this time?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:4b

Praise: Psalm 106 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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