

**SUSTAINING THE FRUIT
OF
THE SHARED LIFE
JUNE 03, 2020
DURING THE GREAT TIME OUT
“THE CONCLUSION OF FAITH AND FOOD”
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31; COLOSSIANS 3:17; SELECTED
SCRIPTURES**

After the fall the earth was not going to be as cooperative with the human representatives of God on earth.

1. *Their sin had brought a daily discipline reminder of the pain of sin.*

The ground would bring up things that were not edible in the same place he was growing edible food.

The work would be hard enough to make them produce sweat. It would not end until the man died and returned to the same humus from which he was taken

NOTE OF HOPE: The curse of the earth is waiting for the revelation of the sons of God, that is the day of the adoption of believers with new bodies Rom 8:18-25

APPLICATION OF THIS HOPE: This is why we take our daily bread with thanksgiving. As we eat each morsel of our food we thank God for 1) its presence as His gift to us 2) its value - it is exactly what would meet the needs of our bodies 3) that soon the curse will be ended and we will see the whole earth including its food filled with the glory of God

TEACHING FROM THIS THOUGHT: Never take your food for granted. Seek your food from as close to the ground as you can get it. Ask God for your daily bread, not your weekly bread, your monthly bread but your daily bread.(This keeps you remembering the provision of God. See below on Manna) Enjoy your food with the joy of the Lord for you will eat it with Him in the future.

2. *Dietary change - after the flood the flesh from animals (meat) was added to our diet*
3. *Manna - Manna was the “bread from Heaven” God gave the wanderers everyday to show His care for His people.*

It could only be gathered once per day therefore it was their daily bread.

It could not be hoarded so there was not a daily effort to gather it.

They could gather it the day before the Sabbath so to avoid work on the Sabbath.

Jesus later told us He was that bread from Heaven.

By example, we are supposed to ask for and receive (gather) our food daily as a reminder of God's ample and adequate provision. We are to eat it with reflection on the Giver and it's value to us as food and nourishment. To gather and store more than we need can become wasteful and causes us to be less dependent upon Him in our spirits. It is not a sin to be repented of since gather twice as much for the Sabbath was not condemned but commanded. It is about taking our security from our wisdom to plan ahead instead of depending upon God. The man who built more barns was rebuked for his storage primarily because he said he would not work again, not because he was wise enough to put some back.

By analogy, we need fresh "manna" every day from the Word of God. We cannot store it up from one gathering; it goes sour or "wormy". We cannot grow with one feeding a week and we are to eat it with reflection upon the Giver and upon the nutritional value it brings to our soul.

- 4. Dietary restrictions and dietary freedom - As one reads the Torah we may be somewhat puzzled by the restrictions that God placed on the eating of foods. Food is important to God and He put certain restrictions in their diet. That of course caused the humans to focus on the restrictions and think of themselves as righteous for not eating what God had prohibited and eating what He had allowed. Wrong end result. There may be medical and nutritional reasons for these restrictions and many have tried to discover these. In some cases they have been able to demonstrate that observations of God's dietary limits actually did have some value for the health of the individual. But the most prominent reason is that this is the rule God placed on His people to make them His peculiar people! Would they be obedient or would they follow the cultures around them? God does not give*

us many reasons for the prohibitions He placed on the eating of clean animals and the rejection of unclean animals. He tells us only that these animals were and those animals were not without a great deal of explanation.

But when we come to the New Covenant and the formation of a new people for a new heavens and new earth, for Christ's kingdom, the dietary restrictions are removed. Paul writes, "4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." 1 TIMOTHY 4 (NKJV) Through this we are warned to not let any man tell us we cannot eat certain foods. This seems to go back to proof of a man's righteousness. Again Paul wrote, "16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. Col 2 (NKJV) and "20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using--according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh. Col 2 (NKJV)

CONCLUSION: *Our food and the way we eat it are important to God. It is His gift of health to us. It should be as close to the way He gave it as possible. It should be a reminder of His DAILY provision and should never be taken for granted. It should be eaten with reflection on Him and on the goodness of the food. It should be a part of our hospitality and sharing with one another; eaten in fellowship with other people. It should be always done for the glory of God. It should always be taken with thanksgiving and appreciation. When guests with an unbelieving host, we are to eat what is set before us without question. If our host tells us it has been dedicated to his false gods, for his sake we are to deny it. Food is one of the key elements in hospitality and fellowship and we should be quick to use it that way with all men.*