

Title: The Living Bread

Text: John 6: 51

Date: September 7, 2008

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

John 6: 28: Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

Our depraved hearts are manifest in four ways:

1. We know some work must be performed before God will accept us.
2. We think God looks to us to perform the work.
3. We think we can actually perform the work which pleases God.
4. Without the power of God working in us, we can not do the one thing God requires of sinners.

V29: Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Proposition: Christ Jesus the Lord is the believers Eternal Life. Those who simply believe on Christ and continue in him by faith shall live forever. I want you to see that in our text this morning.

John 6: 51: I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Divisions: I. Christ Is The Living Bread; II. The Bread Which Christ Gave; III. For Whom This Bread Is Given

I. CHRIST THE LIVING BREAD

John 6: 51: I Am the Living Bread which came down from heaven

The Lord is speaking to unbelieving Jews who trusted in the law of Moses. So he describes himself as the "Living Bread" in contrast to the "bread" with which the Lord fed their father's in the wilderness. That bread was a type of Christ.

A. Christ is the Living Bread Which Does Not Perish But Endures Unto Everlasting Life.

1. After the Lord fed the 5000 from 5 barley cakes and 2 fish, many followed him, **V26: Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. 27: Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.**

B. Christ the Living Bread is the True Bread Which God the Father Gave

V30: They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? 31: Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is

written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. 32: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

1. Those to whom the Lord spoke compared him to Moses.
2. When they read the scriptures they thought it was Moses who gave them the bread from heaven-- So they are basically saying, "You fed 5000 people once, but Moses fed our father's for 40 years. Show us something better than what Moses did."
3. The Lord says, Moses gave you not that bread--but my Father.
4. And he says, "The bread which my father gives is the True Bread from heaven."
5. He is the Son of man, but he is the true bread from heaven, for he is the Son of God.

The Lord told Nicodemus--**John 3: 12: If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13: And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

C. Christ is the Living Bread Which Fills the Sinner's Hunger and Quenches His Thirst Forever.

V34: Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. 35: And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

1. What does the Lord mean when he says, He that believeth on me shall never hunger and thirst?
2. It is the hunger and thirsting after eternal life; this thirst is quenched only when God makes Christ our Living Bread.

V36: But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. 37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38: For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39: And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

D. Christ is the Living Bread To Whom God Assuredly Draws Each of His Elect Children.

V41: The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. 42: And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? 43: Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45: It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. 46: Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

1. The fact that no man can come to Christ, that no man can discover Christ by the natural intellect, except God the Father draw him and teach him is offensive to the natural man for it declares our inability.
2. But this is an encouragement to believers.
 - It assures us that he shall draw all of his elect and Christ shall raise them all.
 - It gives us great comfort concerning our loved ones who do not yet believe on Christ.
 - They shall be all taught of God--opens the door to depraved sinners.

E. Christ is the Living Bread Because He is Everlasting Life.

V47: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. 48: I am that bread of life. 49: Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50: This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

Illustration: Martha Concerning Her Brother Lazarus

John 11:21: Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 22: But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee. 23: Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24: Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

1. We eat of this Living Bread by Faith--he that believeth--continual, persevering faith
2. He that believeth on me "hath"--present tense reality--everlasting life.

II. THE BREAD IS CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

John 6: 51: I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:...and the bread that I will give is my flesh

1. Turn with me to Hebrews 10--In all the old testament offerings the sin of the people was brought to remembrance every year, because the blood of bulls and goats could never take away the sin of a man. **Hebrews 10: 5: Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7: Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,)to do thy will, O God. 8: Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; 9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. 11: And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

- So we see that when the Lord says, "the Bread that I will give is my flesh"...he is speaking of the offering that he would make to Holy God in the place of his people.

- He put an end to that first covenant with those offerings which never pleased God, and established the everlasting covenant by laying down his own body and satisfying God's justice toward his children forever.
- He perfected forever them that are sanctified by this one offering--his flesh.

2. Secondly, through the Holy Spirit he makes this covenant with each of his sanctified, perfected children in the heart. **Hebrews 10: 15: *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And having an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***

- He puts his laws into our hearts when Christ the end of the law enters into us
- In Christ his covenant word to us is--your sins and iniquities I remember no more
- In Christ his covenant word to us is--no where sins have been forever remitted, there is no more offering for sin.

III. FOR WHOM DID CHRIST GIVE HIS LIFE?

John 6: 51: I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh...which I will give for the life of the world.

A. Christ the Living Bread is So Much Better Than That Bread God Gave In the Wilderness, Because Christ the Living Bread is Given For Not Jews Only, But for Us Gentiles As Well.

John 3: 16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- If we get any grasp of how much God so loved his children from among all the nations of the earth we need to connect John 3: 16 to

John 3:14: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

- God so loved the world--Jew and Gentile alike--that he gave his only begotten Son, who knew no sin, to be made the sin that his vile, God-hating, sin--that his children were laden with.
- God so loved the world--that he gave his only begotten Son to pay the price his Holy Law demanded of all his guilty children.
- God so loved the world--that he gave his Son to be lifted up on the cross that I deserved, that I might be made the righteousness of God which I in no way deserved.
- Not that is the love which God has for his children out every nation and tribe and kindred in this earth.

CONCLUSION: NOW LET'S SEE HOW THE LORD JESUS CONCLUDES WHAT HE HAS SO PLAINLY STATED:

John 6: 52: The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? 53: 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. 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

- Eating and drinking is simply another way of saying, "Believing."
- Eating and drinking is not the cause of eternal life, but the evidence.
- When God gives the sinner eternal life in Christ then the sinner believes on Christ.

V55: For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

- The Lord puts the emphasis on his person and work, so as to declare that it is not "faith", that saves but faith's object--poison can be eaten, just as sinners can believe a false gospel, but it is the Man Christ Jesus crucified and risen, the Son of God, who alone saves.

V56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57: As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

- Everything spoken thus far has been spoken to unbelievers.
- Now the Lord speaks of the blessing that belongs to believers--he dwelleth in me, and I in him--believers have a vital union with our risen Redeemer
- And in this union we have communion with our Lord.
- Just as the Son of God in the flesh, as the servant of God depended upon God for life, just as the Son of God dwelled in that body of flesh made for him, so the Risen Redeemer dwells in the believer in Spirit, *even he shall live by me.*
- *The just shall live by faith.*

V58: This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

- Your fathers did eat manna--your fathers physically engaged in the act of eating, manna--means "what is this?" They ate they knew not what, and are dead.
- He that eateth of this bread--he that continually feeds in spirit and in truth upon Christ our King, the True Bread From Heaven--shall live forever.

V60: Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?...66: From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67: Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68: Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69: And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

May our God be pleased to reveal himself in the hearts of his redeemed. Amen.