

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 12

Psalm 34:9-22

Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Whoever of you loves life and desires to see good days,
keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.

He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

The Lord redeems His servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Ephesians 5:3-21

Giving thanks to God by walking wisely as children of light

Why should our lifestyle reflect our faith?

How do we walk “as children of the light?”

How are we filled with the Spirit?

John 6:51-69

The Spirit gives life

What kind of eating is Jesus talking about?

Why do many of His disciples turn away?

Why do the twelve remain?

Lord to Whom Shall We Go?

The sixth chapter is a turning point in John’s gospel. People decide their beliefs about Jesus. Jesus fed five thousand from five loaves and two fish. When the crowd realized what had happened, they tried to seize Jesus and make Him their king? They said, “*Indeed this is the Prophet who was to come into the world!*” They were correct that He was the Prophet who was to come into the world, but they were mistaken about the kind of kingdom He would bring.

The next day some of that great crowd found Him in the synagogue at Capernaum. They wanted more food. He told them not to labour for the food that perishes, but for the food that He would give them, which would give them eternal life. That would have been even better! But then He said, the bread that He would give would be His flesh for the life of the world. They asked each other, “*How can this man give us His flesh to eat?*” The very thought of it was repugnant! They didn’t understand. In the end, they turned and walked away. Surprisingly, John says that even many of Jesus’ disciples no longer followed Him, even they couldn’t stand to listen to Him anymore.

What was the problem? Was it simply a misunderstanding? Jesus was speaking metaphorically and they took His words literally? Or did they understand His words, but simply refused to believe? What did Jesus mean by His flesh being real food and giving life to the world?

Jesus was speaking spiritually and physically. His words had a literal, physical meaning. He would offer His body and shed His blood on the cross for the sin of the world; literally and physically. His words have a deep spiritual meaning, which affects those who believe, in both body and in spirit. Whoever believes in Him receives a food that nourishes the spirit in time and will bring the body to life in eternity.

Most of Jesus’ disciples left and would not walk with Him any longer, but the twelve remained with Him. The twelve disciples had a lot to learn, but they knew this much: That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that His words give eternal life. Jesus words’ give hope to a despondent spirit and peace to a troubled heart. He speaks as the Son of God, through whom all things came to be and in whom all things are held together. Most importantly, He speaks

words of forgiveness and life as our Saviour, who bore our sins on the cross and offered His flesh and blood for our salvation. He has the words of eternal life. He is the eternal Word of life. He gives us eternal life!

“I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS” (Public Domain)

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow;
For Thy grace and tender mercy, Trusting now.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing, In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy, By Thy blood.**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Every day and hour supplying, All my need.**

**I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me, Must prevail.**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever and for all.**

PRAYER

Jesus, dearest Saviour, you are the bread of life. You offered your flesh and shed your blood on the altar of the cross, for the forgiveness of our sin and our eternal salvation; body and soul. You come to us through your word in the proclamation of the gospel. You slake our thirst for righteousness in the water of baptism. You nourish our spirits through the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Draw us close to your heart by the Spirit who dwells within us and among us. Bless us always to hear and honour your word, for you have the words of eternal life. In Your Name. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

John 6:40

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life and I will raise Him up on the last day.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

According to Proverbs where does wisdom cry aloud?

According to Proverbs what does wisdom hold in her right and left hands?

According to Proverbs what is the beginning of wisdom?

Answers to last week’s quiz

Cake and water (1 Kings 19:6).

Cake and veal (Genesis 18:6-8).

Rich food full of marrow, aged wine well refined (Isaiah 25:6).