

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

**John 6: 52 – 59**

**‘He who feeds on Me’** *scripture reading 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 18 - 25*

## **Stand – Read – Pray**

The Bible makes it very clear that we were created to glorify God and that He chose His unique people, the Jews, the nation of Israel, to be His chosen people to follow and glorify Him.

The problem is, like **Jeremiah 2: 13** where God says **My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters and have hewn themselves cisterns broken cisterns that can hold no water.**

The nation of Israel has abandoned their God, described as living waters, and have tried to replace Him with broken cisterns that can not hold water. In other words, they have replaced God with man made things that cannot satisfy and that do not glorify God.

The wisest and richest man who ever lived, Solomon, tried to replace God with things and he wrote about it to tell everyone how futile it is to try to find purpose and meaning in life apart from God.

Solomon, who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, said in **Ecclesiastes 1: 13** **I will set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven.** He then chronicles in Chapter One and Two all that he searched for to find purpose and meaning in life.

He tried with Knowledge and Wisdom and said it was like **grasping for the wind, and in much wisdom was much grief and that knowledge increased sorrow** **Ecclesiastes 1: 18** said.

He tried to find it in pleasure, whatever pleased him he indulged himself and he said in **2: 1** **it was vanity**. He tried it in laughter, in humor, in comedy and in **2: 2** he says **it is madness, what does it accomplish**.

It goes on to say that he tried to find it in **wine**, in alcohol, he tried to find it in the **business of building things**, he tried to find it in extravagant **gardening**, outdoor work, he tried to find it in **sexual relationships** with his female servants, he tried to find it in his possessions, gaining more and more thinking that would satisfy his heart.

He tried to find purpose and meaning in life with money, he tried to buy purpose and meaning. He tried to find it with music and he said that **I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure**. And you know what he concluded after that? **Verse 11** of Chapter 2 says **all indeed was vanity and grasping at the wind**.

As a matter of fact, when he gets to the end of the book of Ecclesiastes, he brings his life's pursuit of happiness and purpose and meaning to one final conclusion. In **Ecclesiastes 12: 13 – 14** he says this **let us hear the conclusion of the matter, 'fear God and keep His commandments for this is the all of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil**.

So what happened in Solomon's time and what happened in Jesus time is still happening today; people are still searching for purpose and meaning in life and they too are searching in all the wrong places. They are the ones who are:

Thinking that there college education will give them P & M  
Pursue pleasures of all kinds, hoping to fill that void in their life  
Who mask their emptiness with humor and laughter  
Who drink alcohol to excess to dull the emptiness inside of them  
Who pour themselves into work, thinking that their business has P & M  
Who pour themselves into fixing up their yard to find P & M  
Find the pleasure of sin for a season in immorality, pornography to find..  
Who have everything, the boats, cars, .... The stuff to find pleasure  
Who amass great wealth, always watching the stock market, ...  
Who drown themselves in their music that evoke emotions to cover their..

Solomon's point was that pursuing earthly things as an end in themselves without seeing them as a means to glorify and serve God leads only to emptiness and hopeless despair. It is because we live in a fallen world, we were born in sin and we love the pleasure of sin for a season without ever contemplating the consequences of that sin, whatever form that takes; **lying, lusting, greed, idolatry, hatred, immorality, drunkenness, materialism, pride, jealousy, or whatever.**

We are all in the same category as **Romans 5: 12** says **for as by one man sin entered the world and death through sin so death has passed to all men because ALL have sinned. Romans 3: 11 says there is none righteous, no not one and Romans 3: 23 says for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.**

And so God, in His infinite love for mankind, made a way for man's sin to be dealt with, to be atoned for, to be forgiven, for man to be redeemed, and it was through the atoning sacrifice of His own Son, Jesus Christ.

And by the way, God's sacrificial love for us was planned, as **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 20** says **before the foundation of the world. It says we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreordained before the foundation of the world.**

**Revelation 13: 8** puts it this way, that Jesus was **slain from the foundation of the world.**

That theme of redemption and forgiveness and atonement, through the sacrifice of an innocent, spotless animal, started back in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Remember the account of Adam and Even disobeying God and bringing sin into the world. They covered themselves to hide their nakedness and shame from God. The **Genesis 3: 21** says **also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of SKIN and clothed them.**

It took the sacrifice of an innocent animal to cover the nakedness and shame of Adam and Eve. Their own covering, their own way of trying to deal with their sin and shame was unacceptable to God.

You see it in **Genesis 22: 8** and the story of Abraham offering Isaac. It says **My son, God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering..** *Review*

The whole Old Testament animal sacrificial system was based on taking a spotless, innocent animal and sacrificing it for the atonement of man's sin. These were all pointing to the one ultimate perfect once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world, for those who would believe in Him.

That is why John said in **John 1: 29** when He saw Jesus coming toward Him, he said **behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.** That is why Jesus has repeatedly told the people, Jew and Gentile alike, that belief in Him and His atoning sacrifice, as **John 3: 16** says, is the only way of salvation, the only means of eternal life.

That is why Jesus told the woman at the well that He alone has the living water **springing up to eternal life** in **John 4: 14.** That is why Jesus told the people in

**John 5: 24** that **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment but has passed from death into life.**

That is why Jesus said in John 6 that He alone can **give the bread which endures to everlasting life ... because He is the bread of life ... and that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life** and that **whoever believes in Him has everlasting life** because again **He is the bread of life and anyone who eats this bread will live forever.** And all the unbelieving Jews could do is **complain about Him** and what He was saying, because that's what unbelief does.

His offer of eternal life as the bread of life was refused by most of the Jews because they were unbelievers that were not hungry for the bread of life but for the food that perishes. They were self-satisfied in in their own sin and religion and because Jesus knew their heart, he left them in their unbelief.

Jesus ended last time by saying **the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.** One writer said; 'if all Jesus had done was come into the world as the living bread come down from heaven; that is to say incarnate God, God in human flesh, and tell us who he was and demand our obedience and show us a pattern of life and then leave; we would be in as hopeless a condition as if he never came.' *MacArthur esword*

You see without Jesus shedding His blood, dying on the cross **Hebrews 9: 22** says **that we could have no forgiveness.** He had to come but He had to come to die as the only acceptable sacrifice to God.

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2: 24** says **Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.** He gave His flesh for the life of the world. **Galatians 1: 4** says **He gave Himself for our sins, that He might delivers us from this present evil age according to the will of God.**

**Galatians 5: 2** says that **Christ gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Titus 2: 14** says that **Christ redeemed us from every lawless deed ...** And so we see the Jews response to all that Jesus has been saying in Verse 52

**Verse 52: the Jews therefore quarreled among themselves saying ‘how can this Man give us His flesh to eat?’**

They, once again, are looking at the purely physical aspect of what Jesus is saying. They are saying ‘how can He give us His flesh, there would not be enough to go around and why would we eat His flesh anyway’, something the Bible forbids. ‘What’s He saying’?

He has already told them that He is the bread of life and in Verse 35 He said if you **come** to Me and **believe** in Me you will have everlasting life. So partaking of Jesus as the bread, eating His flesh as bread, means to come to Him and believe. Verse 40 says that if you see Him (for who He is) and believe you have everlasting life. So He is not talking physically but spiritually, and they don’t get it because of their unbelieving hard heartedness.

So how does Jesus respond to their quarreling and unbelief? Look at Verses 53-54.

**Verses 53 - 54: Then Jesus said to them ‘most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise Him up on the last day.**

He is saying the same thing, twice, just in two different ways, the positive and the negative. Again, He doesn’t try to clarify what He is saying because He has already made it as clear as He can and they still didn’t get it.

You know that everything about Christ, especially the shedding of His blood and giving of His body, to the Jew and others, was foolishness and a stumbling block, right. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 23 - 24** says **but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness. But to those who are CALLED, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** These Jews to whom Jesus is talking in the synagogue are not called, they are unbelieving, cynical, hateful, complaining people that have no life in them.

**Verse 55** for **My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink indeed.** He says 'if you don't partake of Me you have no life, no eternal life, so on that day of resurrection judgment you will stand at the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20 and be cast from the presence of God forever in the lake of burning fire.

If you do partake of Me you have eternal life and will live in the presence of My Father forever. The same two, and the only two, options are still the only choices for today.

By the way, some religions use these verses to support their belief that you are actually eating the body and blood of Jesus every time you partake of communion where you eat the bread and drink the wine. It is called transubstantiation or the belief that the bread becomes the body of Jesus and the drink becomes the actual blood of Jesus.

Others use this verse to support that this is talking about the communion that we celebrate today. The problem with that is, is that Jesus had not yet instituted the change in the Passover because He had not had His last one with the disciples.

If you believe that then you must carry that through and believe that Jesus says if you partake of My flesh and My blood you will have eternal life. So then you are saying that taking communion is a way of salvation and that goes against the clear teaching of scripture.

I like what Jesus says in **Verse 56** where He says **He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood ABIDES in Me and I in him.** What an incredible statement. He says you have eternal life in Me, I will raise you up on the last day and now I will **abide** in you and you in Me. It is a oneness with Christ at salvation.

Remember what **Galatians 2: 20** says **I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives .... In Me...** Jesus will say later in **John 14: 19 – 20** because **I live, you will live also and that day you will know that I am in My Father and you in Me and I in you.**

Just 3 verses later in **John 14: 23** Jesus says **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and WE will come to him and make Our home with him.**

John writes in **1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 24** now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in him. **1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 12, 15, 16** if we love one another, God abides in us...whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God ... he who abides in love abides in God and God in him. And you see, these Jews to whom Jesus is talking, do not believe this, they do not love Christ so God and Christ have no part with them.

And by the way, when we abide in Christ and He in us, Jesus says in **John 15: 5** that we will **bear much fruit** in our Christian lives. Then He says in Verses 57 – 58

**Verses 57 – 58:** as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

To eat the bread of life and drink the blood of Jesus is to be united to the Father and the Son. Just as God the Father gave life to Jesus, so Jesus gives life to us and were are united together with the trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. And nothing can separate us from that uniting love.



**Lighthouse Bible Church**  
**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**  
**John 6: 52 – 59**  
**‘He who Feeds on Me’**

Introduction and Review:

Trying to find purpose and meaning in life:

Jeremiah 2: 13, Ecclesiastes 1: 13,18, 2: 1,2,11  
Ecclesiastes 12: 13 – 14

Many have not learned from the wisdom of Solomon:

Romans 5: 12, Romans 3: 11, 23

God provided a way for man’s sin to be dealt with:

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 20, Revelation 13: 8, Genesis 3: 21  
Genesis 22: 8, John 1: 29, John 3: 16, John 4: 14  
Hebrews 9: 22, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2: 24, Galatians 1: 4, 5: 2  
Titus 2: 14

Verse 52: How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?

Verse 53 – 54: Unless you eat My flesh..

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 23 – 24

Verse 55: for My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink..

Verse 56: He who eats and drinks abides in Me

Galatians 2: 20, John 14: 19 – 20, 23  
1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 24, 4: 12, 15 – 16, John 15: 5

Verses 57 – 59: He who feeds on Me will live

**Lighthouse Bible Church**  
**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**  
**John 6: 52 – 59**  
**‘He who Feeds on Me’**

Introduction and Review:

Trying to find purpose and meaning in life:

Jeremiah 2: 13, Ecclesiastes 1: 13,18, 2: 1,2,11  
Ecclesiastes 12: 13 – 14

Many have not learned from the wisdom of Solomon:

Romans 5: 12, Romans 3: 11, 23

God provided a way for man’s sin to be dealt with:

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 20, Revelation 13: 8, Genesis 3: 21  
Genesis 22: 8, John 1: 29, John 3: 16, John 4: 14  
Hebrews 9: 22, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2: 24, Galatians 1: 4, 5: 2  
Titus 2: 14

Verse 52: How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?

Verse 53 – 54: Unless you eat My flesh..

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1: 23 – 24

Verse 55: for My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink..

Verse 56: He who eats and drinks abides in Me

Galatians 2: 20, John 14: 19 – 20, 23  
1<sup>st</sup> John 3: 24, 4: 12, 15 – 16, John 15: 5

Verses 57 – 59: He who feeds on Me will live