

JOHN 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh,
for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:
‘I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

COMMENTARY: This text is a clear statement that we simply cannot make our way to God unless we do so through Christ. This has nothing to do with who is saved, but rather with finding meaning in our lives. If we don’t look to Christ, who do we look to?

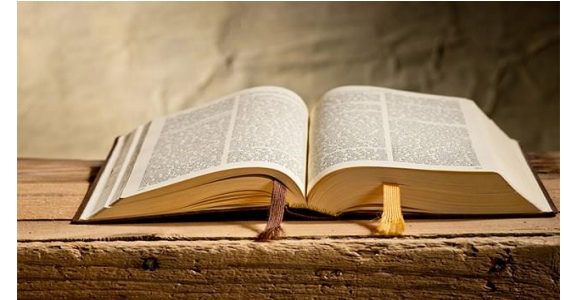
If we worship God without Christ, can we guarantee we are on the right path? How will we know that we are forgiven for our wrongdoing and how will we know anything relating to our search?

What we learn here is that Jesus and Life go together.

Liturgy of The Word

18.8.24

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no
blessing.

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

PROVERBS 9:1-6

Wisdom has built herself a house,
she has erected her seven pillars,
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine,
she has laid her table.
She has despatched her maidservants
and proclaimed from the city's heights:
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'
To the fool she says,
'Come and eat my bread,
drink the wine I have prepared!
Leave your folly and you will live,
walk in the ways of perception.'

COMMENTARY: The readings continue the theme of being invited to eat the bread which God offers. With this comes life. The book of Proverbs is traditionally thought to be written by King Solomon. He is associated with Wisdom because he was young when he became king after his father, David. When God appeared to him in a dream and asked him what he wanted Solomon responded by asking for wisdom to rule over God's people well. Because he did not ask for his self, he reveals an openness to God's way.

Revealed in this text is the metaphor of bread and wine for the spiritual nourishment we need for life's journey. There are two kinds of wisdom but one of them is foolish! Such is the wisdom of Solomon!

EPHESIANS 5:15-20

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but you redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMENTARY: As in Paul's time there were many who lived escaping life. Here Paul is encouraging all to make time for God. For him, it is a question of living consciously in the presence of God.

Then, just as it is now, it is a wicked age. We must take care not to be caught up in what can only destroy our humanity.

A sobering question to ask in light of this text is, how many addictions can I name that exist in our community today?