

John # 117 “It’s Not So Much What I Do But What I Say That Counts” *John 6:63-67*

The Lord Jesus is beginning to up the stakes as far as His teaching is concerned in regard to who He is and why He came and because of that, it becomes much more difficult for His new followers to accept what He’s telling them.

Jesus’ words are a harsh, abrupt, abrasive statement that grates on them but why? Because His message is beyond what they’re willing to accept; it’s not that they don’t comprehend what He’s saying; they do but they also are now beginning to process in their minds what He is asking of them, salvation His way which is God’s way and they’re not ready for that yet.

The Lord Jesus is taking His communication to another level in relation to His work on the cross, so He’s indicating that they are to eat His flesh and drink His blood; meaning that those who come to Him will no longer hunger for righteousness, truth and real meaning in life and by believing in Him for their salvation, they will no longer thirst for their true identity elsewhere.

This is the reason He introduces man’s hunger and his eating bread to alleviate it along with man’s common thirst for finding out about his origin and his cure for his fatal sin-sickness; hence the drinking of His blood.

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And while the sin nature only pays a bare-bones allowance to its slaves, God on the other hand, gives abundant grace benefits to His children!

Wages indicate earning or deserving something; grace benefit is unearned blessing.

Hell is earned and deserved but Heaven cannot be either earned or deserved and Hell depends on the work of man; Heaven depends on the work of God.

The penalty for sin is spiritual death, not physical death and Jesus died spiritually in a substitutionary sense and then physically, bodily because that death was the prerequisite for His spectacular resurrection followed by His ascension.

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Drinking Jesus’ blood is accepting His spiritual death for us on the cross which guarantees eternal life for us and which further means that Jesus Himself will raise us up like He was raised up in resurrection on the last day.

And of course, all this offends these religious legalists greatly and yet, Jesus continues to challenge them to reject their self-serving religion and seek Him and His grace solution to their terminal illness of sin-sickness.

Our Lord is previewing His crucifixion, His substitutionary spiritual death followed by His physical death which precedes His resurrection and His ascension back to where He came from.

And if He ascends back to Heaven, it stands to reason that He must have come down from Heaven in the first place.

“God is not more, cannot promise more or do more than Christ is said to be, to promise and to do.” Charles Hodge

Question: Then what is the issue or the meaning?

The message is spiritual, the meaning is life!

The Lord Jesus knew who would leave Him and He knew who would betray Him; Judas Iscariot.

John 17:12 “While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that Name you gave Me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.”

2ndThess 2:3 Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

The teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ here was

so powerful that it drove out all of the unbelievers with one exception; devil-indwelt Judas!