

Christian Students Association Bible Study

November 3, 2021

GOD MINGLING WITH MAN BY MAN'S EATING

- I. God mingles Himself with the human life by man's eating of Him. (Gen. 2:8-9, 15-17; Psa. 36:8-9; 119:103; Jer. 15:16; Ezek. 3:3; Matt. 4:4; John 6:35; 6:51; 6:57; 6:63)
 - A. Food is mingled with our physical being by our eating, digesting, and assimilating. Before we eat it, the food is in front of us, but after we eat it, the food disappears within us.
 - B. Eventually, we become mingled with the food that we have taken in. Hence, our eating is a matter of mingling.
 - C. All the other living things were created "according to their kind" (vv. 11-12, 21, 24-25), but man was created according to God's kind (cf. Acts 17:28-29a).
 - D. In order for any element to nourish us, it must be mingled with our being. Every day through our eating we are mingled with our food.
 - E. After this mingling is accomplished, we express the food, which we have taken in, through our person, our image, our attributes.
 - F. As saved persons who have been regenerated, transformed, and even conformed to the image of Christ, we express what we have eaten of God as our food.
 - G. In order for any element to nourish us, it must be mingled with our being. Every day through our eating we are mingled with our food.

Genesis 2:9 says, "And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden. . ."

John 6:35 says, "Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst."

Matthew 4:4 says, "But He answered and said, It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.'"

- II. The tree of life as man's food indicating dependence on God.

- A. God as food to man indicates that man is dependent upon God.
 - 1. We cannot eat one meal and live forever.
 - 2. On one hand, eating is an enjoyment, but on the other hand, eating is a difficult job.
 - 3. God is gracious to make eating an enjoyment to us, because if it were not an enjoyment, many of us would not eat.
- B. That God is our food, signified by the tree of life, means that we must depend on God continually.
- C. In Genesis 2 the tree of life and the tree of knowledge were set up as two principles by which man could live.
 - 1. If we take the tree of life, we depend on God.
 - 2. If we take the tree of knowledge, we do not depend on God. Rather, taking the tree of knowledge makes us independent of God.
- D. In family life and in the church life, dependence is beautiful, but independence is ugly.
- E. To take the tree of life is life, but to take the tree of knowledge is death.

Genesis 2:9 says, “And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Genesis 3:6 says, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Genesis 3:22-23 say, “And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever — Then Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to work the aground from which he was taken.”