

The Body and Blood of Christ

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

True Equity and the Greatest Love / John 6:41–71

Today you will make a choice. You can either eat of that which is from this world and die, or take in that which comes from the Father in heaven and live. The choice is yours.

Notes

06/09 John 6:41-71, "The Body and Blood of Christ," Subtitle: Where election and free will meet (Matt. 22:14), Scripture: Titus 1:11-15 Communion

This is where God's sovereignty and man's will meet, to eternal life through faith in Christ, who is the bread from heaven.

Today you will make a choice. You can either eat of that which is from this world and die, or take in that which comes from the Father in heaven and live. The choice is yours.

Stop grumbling that Jesus is different than what you had hoped He would be and just believe in who Jesus really is (John 6:41-51)

Israel grumbled about the manna from heaven because it wasn't what they expected from God. In the same way, many followers of Jesus grumble when they discover that Jesus is different than they wish He was. They like the loving Jesus, full of grace and compassion. However, they struggled with the holy Jesus who is judge and king.

Many struggle with the idea that God must first draw someone, before they will turn to Him and accept Christ, yet we still have a free will to choose to. This passage presents that teaching multiple times.

The Divine-human cooperative.

“The solution to such problems normally is best found in a modified Arminian-Calvinistic position that maintains the biblical tension of the divine and human aspects of salvation found in this text. Salvation is never achieved apart from the drawing power of God, and it is never consummated apart from the willingness of humans to hear and learn from God.”[1]

- [1]Gerald L. Borchert, *John 1–11*, vol. 25A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 268.

Eternal spiritual life is only yours if you inwardly accept Christ’s sacrifice of His body and blood for you (John 6:52-58)

Claim it in acceptance for yourself.

This passage is not about a **eucharist** - the “eating” being talked about here is inwardly accepting the sacrifice of Christ’s body and blood as the suffering death of the Passover Lamb who gave His life for the sin of the world (c.f. John 1:29; 6:33).

Stop grumbling and accept the words of Jesus which leads to eternal life (John 6:59-65)

Stop sleeping in your spiritual slumber and complacency, now is the time to decide.

Romans 13:11 NASB95

¹¹ Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

Ephesians 5:10–16 NASB95

¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹² for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. ¹⁴ For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵ Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

For those who have already accepted Jesus, be careful how you walk, making the most of your time during these evil days, by calling evil evil and chose instead to walk as wise men in Christ.

"Sin will always take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." [1]

- [1]Robby Gallaty and Chris Swain, *Replicate: How to Create a Culture of Disciple-Making Right Where You Are* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2020), 252.

For those who are still waiting to decide whether to accept Jesus or not, this is the time to awake to Jesus who offers you life.

These two imperatives are challenging to accept for both the sleeping believer and for the wavering undecider. Jesus knows your heart right now. Your choice this day will change your life, one way or another.

This day you either accept Jesus or reject Him. This day you are either Christ's possession or His enemy. This day you will either resist evil or join it, either hide it or reveal it.

Accept the words of Jesus today.

As a result of your decision today, you will either walk closer to Jesus, or further from Him (John 6:66-71)

There is an urgency to choose to believe in Jesus today, right here, right now. For every moment that you wait to decide, the further from Jesus you walk.

There is an urgency for believers to call evil evil. For every time that you hesitate to leave sin behind, you walk further away from Jesus.

For both, every time you put the decision off until later, the easier it becomes to put it off in the future, the less you will want to make a decision

next time, and the more difficult it becomes to make that decision. Every time you hesitate, Jesus seems further away.

Will you acknowledge today like Peter did to Jesus, "You [Jesus] have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Today you will make a choice. You can either eat of that which is from this world and die, or take in that which comes from the Father in heaven and live. The choice is yours.

Do you choose to take that which is from heaven and live, or settle for that which is from this world and die?

Romans 6:12–14 NASB95

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Have you turned to follow Jesus? Now is the time and this is the place. Accept that Jesus is Lord of your life, accept Him as your Lord and as your Savior. Pray to God and acknowledge to Him that you accept Jesus.

If you have accepted Jesus, do you still find yourself in the state of grumbling? What are you holding onto in this life? What holds you back from standing up for Jesus and letting go of living for this world?

- Time
- Money

- Entertainment
- Things you let your eyes watch
- Being involved in church
- Reaching out to others
- Witnessing
- Being with God's people in your home and at church