

Feeding On Ashes?

by Wayne Goff

Isaiah prophesied of the pitiful idolater who **made** his own god, fell down and worshiped it, and did not have the common sense to realize that it was nothing more than a *self-induced lie*! “*And no one considers in his heart, nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, ‘I have burned half of it in the fire, yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; and shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?’ He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside; and he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, ‘Is there not a lie in my right hand?’*” (Isaiah 44:19-20).

So the idolater is feeding on “*ashes*.” Think about that for a moment. How many of you would make a meal out of ashes?! Absolutely nobody. There is no nourishment in a bowl of ashes! But that is exactly God’s point. Those who feed on “*ashes*” instead of the milk and meat of God’s Word are getting **zero spiritual nourishment**.

Therefore, “*...desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*” (1 Pet. 2:2). “*Desire*” means “to greatly crave, earnestly desire, greatly long after” the milk of God’s Word! Those who do will faithfully feed upon it and develop their heart of faith and maturity.

Job was a man of such **desire**. He proclaimed: “*... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food*” (Job 23:12). Dear reader, when was the last time you skipped a meal to delve more deeply into God’s Word?! Yes, daily sustenance is important, but do not forget the words of Jesus Christ: “*...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (Matt. 4:4). We must develop a healthy appetite for the Word of God.

“*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*” (Ps. 34:8) So we do not *trust* the Lord if we do not *taste* of His Word.

“*Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price*” (Is. 55:1). Or as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled*” (Matt. 5:6).

Modern “Ashes”

You may be reading this and thinking: “Well, I don’t worship idols!” Perhaps you and I do not worship images of gold, stone or wood. **But do we worship the idols of entertainment, recreation, work, social media, politics, talk radio, etc.?** All of these may have their place *within proper limits*. But those who **constantly** feed their minds on things which have no permanent value are feeding on “*ashes*.” And our minds go to “*pot*”!

We often **calculate** the nourishing value of the food we eat – How many calories are in that meal? Are the ingredients fresh and non-artificial? Am I eating a balanced meal? Have I ingested too many carbs today? There are even apps to help you track your daily intake of foods so that you do not gain unnecessary weight, do not take in too many carbs, etc. So how much healthier would our souls be if we did the same thing in our spiritual food? – Is that sermon, bulletin article, poem, class lesson, etc. from the Word of God? Is it pure and untainted by human wisdom? Is it the truth or Satan’s lie? There is a Book that will help you calculate the amount of daily nutrition your soul is getting. Be sure you get enough spiritual food!

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