

#4: The Significance of Eating and the Defeat of Death (Crystallization—study of Leviticus 2)

2018/9/3-9

I. In order to know the real meaning of eating in Leviticus 11, we need to know the significance of eating:

A) To eat is to contact things outside of us that could affect us inside:

① Eating is not merely contacting something but also receiving something into us. [Jer. 15:16](#) Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

② Once a thing is received into us, that thing can be digested inside to become our constituent, that is, our being, our constitution.

③ We all are a constitution of the food that we eat and digest; what we digest becomes our constitution.

B) Taking in the Lord to digest and assimilate Him so that He may become life to us is signified by our eating the bread of the Lord's table:

[Mark 14:22](#) And as they were eating, He took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to them, and said, Take; this is My body.]

① Eating the bread of the Lord's table indicates that the Lord comes into us as our life supply, and then the bread becomes us, the food becomes us, and we become the bread.

[I Cor. 10:17](#) Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

② There is not only an organic union between us and the food that we eat, digest, and assimilate; we are also mingled with the food that we assimilate into us:

a. In a similar way, when we take Christ as our food, we are mingled with Him.

b. Eating, digesting, and assimilating food involve an intrinsic mingling of the food with our being; eating, digesting, and assimilating also involve a becoming, for the food that we assimilate becomes our very being.

C) God wants us to eat, digest, and assimilate Him so that we become God in life, nature, constitution, and expression but not in the Godhead:

[John 6:57](#) As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

① The Lord Jesus is the bread of God—the bread of life, the living bread, the true bread out of heaven.

[John 6:51](#) I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this

bread, he shall live forever; And the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.

② God wants to be digested and assimilated by us so that He can become the constituent of our inward being.

③ Because we are what we eat, if we eat God as our food, we will be one with God and even become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead.

D) The way for us to become the reality of the kingdom of the heavens is to eat Christ as the all-inclusive bread:

① God's economy is not a matter of outward things but of Christ coming into us inwardly; for this, we need to take Christ by eating Him.

② The reality of the kingdom of the heavens is Christ Himself.

③ As the heavenly King and the kingdom itself, Christ rules over us by feeding us with Himself as bread:

a. We can be the reality of the kingdom of the heavens only by being nourished with Christ as our food.

b. The more we eat Christ as the all-inclusive bread, the more the royal ingredients are constituted into us to become the ruling element within us and to cause us to become the increase of Christ as the reality of the kingdom of the heavens.]

④ By eating the kingly Christ as the all-inclusive bread, we are cleansed inwardly:

a. In order for us to be cleansed in our inner being, something must get into us, and the only way that this can take place is by eating.

b. As our food, Christ is the best cleansing element; He washes our inner being, and we thereby experience the washing of our disposition.

c. We all need an inward cleansing from the Lord—the cleansing that comes from eating Jesus.

E) Eating Jesus is the secret of overcoming; the unique way to be an overcomer is to eat Jesus.

[Rev. 2:7](#) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

[3:20](#) Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

F) The fact that Leviticus 11 speaks of death in relation to diet indicates that our diet, our eating, is a matter of life or death.

II. Leviticus 11 is concerned very much with death:

A) Death is abominable to God; in His eyes death is the most ugly thing, whereas life is the most precious thing.】

B) From Eden onwards, God's controversy with Satan has been the issue of death and life.

[I Cor. 15:26](#) Death, the last enemy, is being abolished.

C) According to the Bible, death is more defiling and abominable than sin: [Lev. 11:31](#) These are unclean to you among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until the evening.

① Through the trespass offering, any sin could be forgiven immediately, but a person who touched the carcass of any animal was unclean until the evening.

② Our sins are forgiven immediately after we confess them to God, but a certain period of time must pass before we can be cleansed from the defilement of spiritual death.

D) Death is an exceedingly great power; apart from God, death is the greatest power in the universe.

E) Death is allied with the devil:

① Since the devil is God's enemy, death is also God's enemy.

② Death is the last enemy that God will abolish.】

F) The attack upon the church will come from the gates of Hades, from death:

① The ultimate weapon that Satan uses to attack the church is death.

② Only the life of Christ and that which issues from the life of Christ will prevail against the gates of Hades.

[John 11:25](#) Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

③ God intends for the church to manifest the life of Christ; thus, the church must be full of life.

④ In ourselves we cannot overcome death, because Satan has injected death into us; the only One who can overcome death is the Lord Jesus Christ.

[I Cor. 15:22](#) For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

G) On the cross Christ tasted death, destroyed the devil, and nullified death:

① The Lord Jesus tasted death not only for human beings but also for everything created by God, thereby enabling God in Christ to reconcile all things to Himself.】

② Through His death on the cross, Christ destroyed the devil, who has the might of death, and released those who were held in

slavery because of the fear of death:

a. The Son of God became flesh so that He might destroy the devil in man's flesh through His death on the cross; this was to abolish Satan, to bring him to nought.

b. Since the Lord destroyed the devil, who has the might of death, we who were held in slavery because of the fear of death have been released by Him:

(1) Death reigned over us, and we were under its slavery, continually fearing death.

(2) Since the Lord destroyed the devil, we now have no more fear of death and are released from its slavery.

③ Through His work on the cross, Christ nullified death: [II Tim. 1:10](#) ...our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,

a. Through His devil-destroying death, Christ brought death to nought.

b. To nullify death is not to remove death but to make it of none effect; death will be removed when it is cast into the lake of fire .

c. Although death has not yet been removed, it is nonetheless a fact that death has been nullified through Christ's death on the cross.

H) Through His resurrection the Lord Jesus overcame death and broke through death:

① The last thing that the devil used to attack the Lord Jesus was death:

a. Christ came to meet His enemy, who has the might of death.

b. The Lord Jesus did not avoid death, because He did not fear it and knew that He would overcome it.

c. The Lord delivered Himself to death, but death had no way to detain Him; rather, death was defeated by Him, and He rose up from it.

② Death could not hold the Lord, the grave could not restrict Him, and Hades could not detain Him; He resurrected; resurrection is the overcoming of death.

I) Because the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit dwells in us, we can reign in life over death; the divine life enthrones us as kings to reign in life over death.

[Rom. 5:17](#) For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

J) For the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to minister life; we experience and enjoy the resurrection life within and then minister this life by being a channel through which this life can flow into other members of the Body .】

Experience①: Eat God's words as the spiritual healthy food every day

God not only desires that man be His vessel to contain Him but also wants man to eat, digest, and assimilate Him. When we eat, digest, and assimilate physical food, we are energized and strengthened.... Eventually, the food that we have eaten becomes the fiber, tissue, and cells of our being. In the same way, God's eternal plan is to dispense Himself into us so that He becomes every fiber of our inward being. He wants to be digested and assimilated by us so that He can become the constituent of our inward being.

We do not need outward rituals or practices.... God's economy is not a matter of outward things; it is a matter of Christ coming into us inwardly. For this, we need to take Christ in by eating Him.

How can we do God's will in the kingdom? There is no other way but to take Jesus in. We should not try to do the will of God ourselves. We will only fail. The way to fulfill God's will is to take in the One who obeys God all the time. Jesus is the kingdom of obedience. We simply need to take Him in, to eat Him as the children's bread. We may be the Gentile dogs, but we all have our portion under the table. We all can eat King Jesus and take Him into us. All the kingly elements are in this bread. The more we eat Jesus, the more the royal ingredients will get into us. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for such a ruling element within.

Matt.15:2 Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread. **18** But the things which proceed out of the mouth come out of the heart, and those defile the man. **20** These are the things which defile the man, but eating with unwashed hands does not defile the man.

26 But He answered and said, It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. **27** And she said, Yes, Lord, for even the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

For Junior & Senior High School Students

As the nutritionist says, you are what you eat. This means you are constituted by the food you eat. If you eat fish, the protein of the fish will become the protein that constitutes your body. Since this material principle is exactly the same as the spiritual matters, the Bible places great emphasis on what you eat spiritually.

Matt.4:4 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."

Luke15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is

My flesh, given for the life of the world. **57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. **63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

The important thing of eating materially is to eat "healthy food" "every day." Therefore, please eat spiritual healthy food every day. Practically, sanctify 10 ~ 15 minutes every morning and exercise your spirit to pray-read God's words as the healthy food. In order to grow up in the Lord, you have to establish the habit of eating the Lord every morning. This eating habit surely will become the source of blessing of your school life. Therefore, please rely on the Lord's grace and establish the good habit.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus! The Bible really emphasis on eating. This is because eating the Lord is extremely important to me. The one who eats the Lord shall live because of Him. If we eat the Lord, the ingredients of the Lord will change my soul metabolically and my soul is conformed to the same image as the Lord. Oh Lord Jesus! Please let me establish the habit of eating Lord Jesus and pray-read God's words as the spiritual healthy food every day. By eating Lord Jesus, my school life will be uplifted and blessed. Amen!"

Experience②: Sanctify your tongue and only speak something good for building up

All dead things are unclean. Uncleaness, therefore, equals death. Death is more defiling and abominable than sin. But according to our concept, sin is more serious than death.... Because of our ethical and moral concepts, we know that lying is sinful. If someone lies to us, we shall condemn that lie as sinful. However, we may not realize that talk which is ethical may nevertheless be filled with death. For example, we may not realize talking with a brother about his family may involve death. Such talk may be ethical but still be filled with death.

How can we overcome death? We can never overcome death in ourselves, because Satan has injected death into us. The only One who has overcome death is the Lord Jesus Christ. The goal of the Lord's work on the cross was to put Satan to death. Satan ruled the world through death, but Christ destroyed Satan through death. The Lord's death is a terminating death, while Satan's death is a non-terminating death. Christ's death is complete and thorough. All other deaths are merely deaths, but Christ's death is a termination. Neither the death of Hades, the death of the body,

nor the death of the lake of fire can terminate anything. Only Christ's death terminates. His death has terminated Satan and has terminated even "death" itself.

Christ was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything. This means that He died for everything. Christ tasted death not only for human beings but for everything, every creature. The Lord Jesus' redemption was accomplished not only for people but for everything created by God. Thus, God can reconcile all things to Himself through Christ.

For Young Working Saints/Family Life

As a business person, you should recognize that your tongue is either leading you to death or life. Depending on the words you say, they lead to death or to life.

Psa. 18:21 For I have kept the ways of Jehovah And have not acted wickedly by turning away from my God.

Death in your tongue is not necessarily evil. Rather, in many cases it is not evil, but full of death. For example, a gossip may be based on a certain fact, but it is full of death, and it spreads death as well. Also, you need to note that when you talk about your immediate family, you speak with your natural affection. In fact, such talk is full of death. Reading the case of Mark 3 below, words coming from the people with their natural concern for Jesus' immediate family, as a result, had opened the way for the Bible scholars to blaspheme Jesus.

Mark 3:20 And He came into a house, and again a crowd came together, so that they could not even eat bread. **21** And when His relatives heard about it, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, He is beside Himself. **22** And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons He casts out the demons.

FT "He is beside Himself" was an exclamation expressing the natural concern for the Slave-Savior on the part of His relatives. It opened the way for the scribes to blaspheme Him (v. 22).

As a business person, you should train not to say the wrong things in the company, but you should also pay attention to not to say things that can lead to death. For example, a person in the company carries out a conversation with an atmosphere of criticizing his boss. At the beginning the evil intention was hidden, but in the end, it led people to hate that boss. You must not even listen to such gossip.

Also, you are not able to speak the truth of God straight forwardly to your immediate family because of the natural affection you have for them. For example, when relatives and your own children are going to take the university entrance exams, due to natural affection you may pray that

"the premise is to pass a good university then think about the church life afterwards". Such prayer is a natural prayer, and is different from the principle of God's economy, which is to "pursue Christ and the church life first". Such natural prayers and conversations will actually corrupt those young students who are exam-takers.

Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

First, you should consider the spiritual happiness of those who listen. Spiritual happiness should be judged by whether the church, the goal of God's economy is being built or not.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, my tongue can lead to death, and can spread death, but there is also the possibility of building up the church and others by speaking good words. Therefore, it is crucially important that I control my tongue correctly. Lord, I shall rely on Your grace and learn how to control my tongue. Save me from talking or listening to gossips. In my business life and family life, I shall first pursue Christ and the church. May your blessings be with my business life and family life in God's economy. Amen! "

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1. Oh, the church of Christ is glorious, and we are part of it—We're so happy that the Lord has made us one!
There's a Body in the universe and we belong to it
—Hallelujah, for the Lord has made us one!

Hallelujah for the Body! We are members of the Body!
We are wholly for the Body!
Hallelujah, for the Lord has made us one!

2. Not the individual Christians, but a corporate entity
—God must have it for His full expression now;
Not just individual churches but the Body corporately
—Hallelujah, we are in the Body now!

Hallelujah for the Body! Satan trembles at the Body!
We're victorious in the Body!
Hallelujah, we are in the Body now!

3. There are seven golden lampstands in the nature all divine —Nothing natural does the Body life allow.
When we're one and share God's nature, how the lampstand then does shine—Hallelujah, it is brightly shining now!

Hallelujah for the Body! For the lampstands of the Body!
For the golden, shining Body!
Hallelujah, it is brightly shining now!

4. How may we express such oneness, be divine and shining too? Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!
He's the tree of life, the manna, and the feast that's ever new — Hallelujah, we may eat Him every day!

We are one by eating Jesus! We're divine by eating Jesus! How we shine by eating Jesus!
Hallelujah, eating Jesus is the way!