

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



**Today's call to Worship will be David Berry with
Gideons International gideons.org**

To God Be the Glory

Hymn 363



O, How I Love Jesus

Hymn 634



Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obligated in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God ... What a Utopia, what a paradise would this region be.”

JOHN ADAMS

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Today's Message

“Come to Christ”

Scripture text: John 6:22-40

The disciples may have been impressed that so many people stayed through a storm in order to seek their Master, but **Jesus was not impressed. He knows the human heart.** He knew that the people originally followed Him because of His miracles (John 6:2), but **now their motive was to get fed!** Even if they were attracted only by the miracles, at least there was still a possibility they might be saved. After all, that is where Nicodemus started (John 3:1–2). But now their interest had degenerated to the level of food.

John 6:2 And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.

John 3:1-3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, **we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.**" Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jesus pointed out that **there are two kinds of food**: **food for the body**, which is necessary but not the most important; and **food for the inner man, the spirit, which is essential**. What the people needed was not food but life, and life is a gift. Food only sustains life, but **Jesus gives eternal life**. The words of Isaiah come to mind: **Isaiah 55:2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?** Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

The people picked up the word labor and misinterpreted it to mean they had to work for salvation. They completely missed the word give. **Steeped in legalistic religion, they thought they had to “do something” to merit eternal life.** Jesus made it clear that only one “work” was necessary—**to believe on the Savior.** When a person believes on Christ, he is not performing a good work that earns him salvation. There is certainly no credit in believing, for **it is what God does in response to our faith that is important.**

John 6:28 Then they said to him, "**What must we do, to be doing the works of God?**"

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by **grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them**.

The crowd began by seeking Christ, but then started to seek a sign from Him. “For the Jews require a sign” (1 Cor. 1:22). The rabbis taught that, when Messiah came, He would duplicate the miracle of the manna (see Ex. 16). If Jesus was truly sent by God (see John 6:29, 38, 57), then let Him prove it by causing manna to fall from heaven. **They wanted to “see and believe.”**

But faith that is based on signs alone, and not on the truth of the Word, can lead a person astray; for even Satan is able to perform “lying wonders” (2 Thes. 2:8–10).

John 6:29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, **that you believe in him** whom he has sent."

John 6:37-38 All that the **Father gives me [sovereignty]** will come to me, and **whoever comes to me [personal responsibility]** I will never cast out. For **I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**

You must respond to the call of God! Whatever choice you make, will then make you!

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. **The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

The quotation in John 6:31 is from Psalm 78:24, a psalm **that records the unbelief and rebellion of the nation of Israel.**

John 6:31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, '**He gave them bread from heaven to eat.**'”

Psalm 78:23-25 Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, and **he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.**

In His reply, **our Lord sought to deepen the people's understanding of the truth.** It was **God, not Moses, who gave the manna;** so they must **take their eyes off Moses and focus them on God.** Also, God gave the manna in the past, but the **Father is now giving the true bread in the person of Jesus Christ.** The past event is finished, but the present spiritual experience goes on!

How many today look to people, things, government, actors, technology, sport players, drugs, etc., instead of Christ! Only Jesus can save!

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is looking down at his smartphone. A thought bubble is positioned above him, containing text. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

I'd never let
Big Brother
put a
computer
chip in MY
hand

Then Jesus clearly identified what the bread is:

He is the true Living Bread that came down from heaven. But He came, not only for Israel but for the whole world. And He came, not just to sustain life, **but to give life!** Seven times in this sermon, our Lord referred to His “**coming down from heaven**” (John 6:33, 38, 41–42, 50–51, 58), **a statement that declared Him to be God.** The Old Testament manna was but a type of the “**true bread,**” the Lord Jesus Christ.

This dialogue began with the crowd seeking Christ and then seeking a sign, but listeners soon began to seek the “true bread” that Jesus talked about. However, like the woman of Samaria, they were not ready for salvation (see John 4:15). She wanted the living water so she would not have to keep going to the well. The crowd wanted the bread so **they would not have to toil to maintain life**. People today still want Jesus Christ only for the **benefits He is able to give**.

In His reply to their impulsive request, Jesus used two key words that often appear in this sermon: **come and believe**. To **come to Jesus means to believe on Him**, and to **believe on Him means to come to Him**.

Believing is not merely an intellectual thing, giving mental assent to some doctrine. **It means to come to Christ and yield [surrender] yourself to Him**. At the close of His sermon, Jesus illustrated coming and believing by speaking about eating and drinking. To come to Christ and believe on Him means **to receive Him within, just as you receive food and drink**.

John 6:35 contains the first of seven great **I AM** statements recorded by John, statements that are found nowhere else in the Gospels. (For the other six, see John 8:12; 10:7–9, 11–14; 11:25–26; 14:6; 15:1, 5.)

God revealed Himself to Moses by the name **I AM** (Jehovah) (Ex. 3:14). God is the self-existent One who “**is, and ... was, and ... is to come**” (Rev. 1:8).

When Jesus used the name I AM, He was definitely claiming to be God.

John 6:37–40 contains Jesus’ explanation of the process of personal salvation. These are among the most profound words He ever spoke, and we cannot hope to plumb their depths completely. He explained that salvation involves **both divine sovereignty and human responsibility**. The Father gives men and women to the Son (John 6:37, 39; 17:2, 6, 9, 11–12, 24), but these men and women must come to Him, that is, **believe on Him**. He assured them that nobody who came to Him would ever be lost but would be raised at the last day. **Even death cannot rob us of salvation!** (In regard to the “last day,” see John 6:40, 44, 54. Jesus was referring to His return and the final events that climax God’s program for mankind.)

From our human and limited perspective, we cannot see how divine sovereignty and human responsibility can work together; but from God's perspective, **there is no conflict**. When a church member asked Charles Spurgeon how he reconciled these two, he replied, "**I never try to reconcile friends.**" It is the Father's will that sinners be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9) and that those who trust Christ be secure in their salvation. **Believers receive eternal life and Jesus can never lose them.**

Have you yielded (surrendered) yourself to Christ?

Have you come to the Great "I AM", that you might have eternal life? Asking Him to die for you, that you might live for Him?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If not, what are you waiting for? You are not promised tomorrow, **if today was your last day on earth, where would you spend eternity?**

Is so, who have you shared with? Have you shared the truth about Jesus Christ, can you pass on the truth of Jesus Christ to others, that they may come to Christ?

Pass It On

Hymn 641

