

Lord have Gospel Meetings, invite men to preach from the Scriptures on a great variety of subjects to instruct those present not only how to be saved but also how to live as a child of God. Many of us have opportunities to attend these meetings on a pretty regular basis. As a Christian, one of the great spiritual blessings we have is the privilege to pray to our Heavenly Father at any time. He tells us to cast all our cares on Him for He cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). A lot of spiritual food. One thing which is lacking in the lives of many, is the hunger for this food. I am sure you have heard the same things which I have heard. "He/she struggles with their faith." They will until there is a desire for the nourishment provided them by Jehovah. Have you lost your appetite? **Jim Mickells**

Notes and reminders:

Let us be praying for our Bible study classes and all efforts to learn more of God's word.

Also, continue prayers for those on our list, for those in authority, and for the free course of the gospel and obedient hearers.

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."
1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

Meeting times of the church

Sunday:

9:00 am Bible classes

10:00 am Morning Worship

5:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

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Hebrew 10:23—25 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some." But, exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Marietta church of Christ
8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Postage

Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

March 6, 2022



I Have No Appetite

Quite often as people get older and their health is failing, they lose their appetite. I spoke with a lady just a few days ago who said, "I am just not hungry." We know if they don't eat inevitably their health will continue to deteriorate and will eventually lead to their death. Those in such a condition often hear the words, "You must try to eat something even if you are not hungry."

Just as this happens to one's physical health, the same often occurs to the spiritual health of Christians as well, yet age has nothing to do with it. They have no

appetite for “the pure milk of the word” and they cease to grow (1 Pet. 2:2). Before long they have become so weak, they refuse to partake of the spiritual nourishment provide by God, and they die spiritually. We see this pattern over and over in the body of Christ. How sad, especially in view of the abundance of spiritual food available to them.

In the parable of the seed or the sower in Luke 8, Jesus paints us a word picture of the hearts of mankind. There are four types of soils or hearts which He describes in vv. 5-18. There was the wayside, rocky, thorny, and good soil in which the seed was sown. The seed is the word of God (v. 11). It seems the type of soil which describes far too many Christians is that which is thorny. The cares, riches, and the pleasures of life choke out the word, so it brings no fruit to maturity (vv. 7,14). These things are the candy eaten before a meal which destroys the appetite. It is not that these things are necessarily evil within themselves, one makes them wrong because they are placed before their service to God (Mat. 6:33).

What happens is the cares, riches, and pleasures of life demand so much of one’s time none is left to eat spiritually as they should. A man or woman gets up in the morning, grabs a bite of breakfast, and heads off to work an eight-hour shift. They come home in the afternoon, have dinner, and off to the ballgame or some other activity the family is involved in. Get in close to bedtime, shower, get ready for bed and rest before retiring for the night. While resting before lying down they are either on their computer or cell phone checking e-mail, texting someone, watching YouTube, or TV. Then off to bed till the next morning and the same thing plays out all over again. Even if some take time to pray, read their Bibles, and help their children with their Bible lessons, how much time is spent on these good wholesome things in comparison to all the other things they are involved in? If these other interests demand more time, less time and effort will be spent on these spiritual activities.

Paul tells us we need to be, “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). The word “redeeming” is defined as “make the most of, make good use of” (A

Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament, p. 62). What better way for one to make wise use of their time than to study, pray, and take advantage of every opportunity to do good in the Lord’s service.

Look once again at 1 Peter 2:2. There must be a desire for the pure milk of the word if one is to grow and remain alive spiritually. Vincent in his Word Studies of the New Testament says of the word “desire” – “The compound is intensive; earnestly desire.” Jesus said those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled (Mat. 5:6). I know a good number of people who are struggling with their faith. One of the primary reasons for this is, a lack of appetite for the word of God.

Is there anyone who does not have access to the word of God? It is available through a great number of sources. We have it in book form in our language, online, and easily downloaded to our phones. There are Bible Classes provided each week at the local church. Men and women give themselves to hours of study so members and their children can be taught God’s word. Various churches of our