

Work For What Endures

International Bible Lesson

John 6:22-35

Sunday, May 6, 2012

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27—KJV).

“Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him” (John 6:27—GNB).

“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal” (John 6:27—NRSV).

If we interpreted John 6:27 out of context, we could mistakenly argue that Jesus commanded people not to work for food; thus giving people a divine excuse not to work at all. To avoid mistakes of this kind, we need to consider what the whole Bible teaches, and the Bible teaches, “Anyone unwilling to work should not eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Because the Bible does not contain contradictions, we need to look for the deeper meaning of Jesus’ teaching. Jesus warned against trying to do the work of God for the purpose of acquiring the food that perishes. Even today, too many people go to church to please God in order to get more and more material possessions from God; Jesus warned against this motive as a reason for coming to God or to him. Likewise, believers need to be careful not to encourage people to come to Jesus merely for the food or possessions that perish.

Jesus taught, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent” (John 6:29). Jesus kept the focus of the believer upon himself, because He came to give eternal life. Jesus said He was the true bread from heaven, and He was the bread of God. Jesus gives physical and spiritual life. He gives moral and spiritual transformation that recreates a believer and gives them joy in the presence of God forever. Knowing Jesus and learning more about Jesus means more to the believer than any material possession He gives. – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

— © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. — E-mail: lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org

You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.

More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org.
Read the verse by verse commentary on the Bible Lesson at: BibleLessonForum.com
International Bible Lessons Archives from 2007-2011 InternationalBibleLessons.com.
See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.

Thinking Further

1. What are some things Jesus did (or refused to do) when showing and telling the truth about himself so He would not appear arrogant, egotistical, or self-centered?
2. Why did Jesus allow His disciples see Him walk on water, but did not walk on water in front of a crowd for them to see Him walk on water?
3. How did Jesus give God the Father the glory and honor for feeding the crowd?
4. What did Jesus say that the crowd was seeking when they came to Him? What are some people seeking when they come to Jesus today?
5. Who does Jesus tell the crowd to believe in? Who does Jesus want people to believe in today? What are some of the results of believing in this person?