

## Minister's Message – June 2004

### Life

Grapefruit, ginseng, garlic, Echinacea, St Johns Wort – the list goes on and on of miracle cures and foods that will prolong life. Something will be featured in almost any popular magazine you care to pick up. Around the world, among all peoples, the search goes on for that special food that will enable man to live longer.

Imagine if you discovered that food. You advertised this food that prolongs life 10, 20 or 30 years. You would have such a crowd at your door you would have to hire an army to keep them at bay. You would be an instant millionaire, or billionaire.

Jesus said *I am the bread of life which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread they will live forever* (John 6:51). Now Jesus did not come from Mars bringing some microbe that prolongs life beyond 200 or 300 years. That may be the subject of science fiction. He was talking about fact not fiction. Jesus was talking spiritual reality not dreams or vain hopes.

*If anyone eats this bread they will live forever* said Jesus. Now that is a pretty big claim to make. It is made openly with no small print. It is made with a written guarantee. No one has ever made a claim against that guarantee.

The Jews who Jesus was talking to, had experienced God providing food from heaven in their past. In the wilderness they would have starved but for manna from heaven. God sent this food – like dew in the fields – every morning. That manna kept them alive until they reached the Promised Land.

Food from heaven. Food that will keep them alive forever. That is what Jesus was offering them. And what was this food? Where could they get this food? They were very eager to get it. Are you eager to get such food? Do you want to live forever? Or have you accepted defeat? Have you accepted death?

That bread *is my flesh* said Jesus. He shared the secret with them and with us. *The bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I give for the life of the world.* But what was He talking about? The people started to quarrel. How can He give us his flesh to eat they argued. They could not understand. Do you understand? Jesus was not just playing with words. He was very serious.

He did not mean eating the bread on the communion plate. That bread is just symbolic. It is symbolic of his flesh, of his body that was torn when he was crucified. It was His death that brought life, for He suffered death in your place so that you do not have to die.

To eat his flesh then means to believe this truth – to believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins. You eat His flesh or His death, with your heart or with your soul. Devour Jesus; fill your up your soul with Jesus and you will live forever. That is what He promises. And the guarantee? God raised Him from the dead.

*Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon*