

# Is Christ Divided?

#0178

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 25, 1978

Let us turn to the Gospel of John, the sixth chapter, verse 51, the words of Jesus in that wonderful sermon in the synagogue at Capernaum. You remember that the day before, He had fed the multitude with the barley loaves. In that wonderful miracle, thousands of people were fed from a few tiny loaves. And now He makes this an illustration of what He has to offer them in Himself.

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” John 6:51.

What a beautiful and impressive figure this is. Bread is rightly spoken of as the staff of life. And here Jesus says, I am the bread of life. If you eat of this bread, you will live forever. If you eat of this bread, you will live forever.

But now I want to ask a question. And I ask it in the words of Scripture, 1 Corinthians the first chapter and the thirteenth verse:

“Is Christ divided?” 1 Corinthians 1:13.

This particular verse is found early in Paul’s epistle to the Corinthian church. They had been torn into factions. One was holding to what Paul had taught; others claimed to be following Apollos. Still others felt that Peter was their leader. Interestingly enough, all three of these ministers were laboring in the Gospel of Christ, and it was no part of their message to attract people to themselves. But the enemy is perfectly willing to take good men and use them as excuses for party spirit and schisms.

And so, Paul asked the question of the Corinthians believers, “Is Christ divided?” And of course the answer is, no, He isn’t. And he says whether it’s Paul or Apollos or Cephas, they are simply ministers of Christ by whom ye believe, and Christ is not divided, and as he said further over in 1 Corinthians 12:13:

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”  
1 Corinthians 12:13.

Jews, Gentiles, bond, free, all made to drink of one Spirit. The unity of the church is to show the unity of the Gospel.

But I would like to look at a little different application of this expression, "Is Christ divided?" I would like to come back to Jesus' statement, "I am the living bread," and take a look at it with you.

Here is a loaf of bread, good whole grain bread. It has, as we say, the elements of life. Now, the food chemists could tell us some things about this bread more than most of us know. The nutrition experts could speak at length on the virtues of the whole grain bread. They could tell us about the wheat germ, the various parts of the wheat, the starch and the protein, the bran. They could tell us of the thiamine and other vitamins of the B complex. They could tell us of the vitamin E that's in the wheat germ.

But I want to tell you something interesting, friends, there are people here tonight that don't know one of those names that I've mentioned, that get all of those things every day when they eat this bread. Do you agree with me? And the greatest nutrition expert in the world, the greatest food expert in the world, the greatest chemist in the world, unless he eats the bread, he's not getting any of what he's talking about. Do you agree with me again?

So tonight, I'd like to have you think of this in the Gospel. Jesus says, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven" John 6:51. The theologians, and God bless them, they have their place, at least some of them do, and it is interesting to read some of the things they write as they dissect and analyze the Gospel, the various elements that they find that make it up.

But millions of souls down through the ages have found salvation without knowing those terms that they define and debate about. Don't misunderstand me, I wouldn't for a moment give the impression that it is wrong to study. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life," and He added, "They are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39). Christ is the living Word. In the Bible we have the written Word. In it all, we are receiving Jesus.

My point is this, dear friends, it is possible to spend time in discussion about what is in bread and not eat the bread. It is possible to spend precious hours in theological discussions and not really receive Jesus Christ. And that brings me to our real text tonight, John the first chapter and the twelfth verse. With this introduction, I think we'll be prepared to get a wonderful blessing out of John 1:12.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Who is it that gets the power to become God's children? Those who receive

Jesus. Not simply those that hear about Him, those that read about Him, but those that do what? *Receive Him*. And how many get it? Just as many as receive Him.

“As many as received Him, to them gave He power”  
John 1:12.

If there's a million that receive Him, a million get the power. If you're the only one in your family that receives Him, you get that power. Just as much as though you were the only person for whom Jesus died.

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” John 1:12.

Oh, I am so thankful that I've had the precious experience in more than 50 years of ministry, to present this very text to souls that needed help. And thank God, whether they understood all the theology of it, if they did just what the text said, if they received Jesus, they got that power and became the children of God. You and I are given that privilege, thank God. And we need to enter into it more and more as time goes on. What do you say?

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” John 1:12.

You see, the gifts that Jesus offers us are not something that He gives us apart from Himself. We need pardon for sin, but we cannot get pardon apart from Jesus. Pardon is not something that He offers us apart from Himself. We receive pardon only as we receive Jesus. We may long for power to overcome some sinful habit, some wicked lust, but that power is in Jesus, it's never something that He gives us apart from Himself. This is true at the beginning of the Christian way, and it's true all along the way. We receive power only as we receive *Him*.

Every grace, every goodness, every bit of righteousness that we ever receive, we receive by receiving Him. And we get it, friends, when we take Him whether we know the names of all the elements or not.

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” John 1:12.

I hear today quite a bit of discussion in some circles about justification and sanctification. I was meditating on it not long ago, and I thought, “Now let's see, did Jesus preach the Gospel?” Do you think He did? Oh yes, you would all agree that Jesus preached the Gospel. I wish you would note how many times Jesus used the

words justification and sanctification in His preaching of the Gospel.

Think of that three-chapter Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5, 6 and 7. Count how many times you'll find the word 'justification' or 'justified,' 'sanctification' or 'sanctified.' They're perfectly good words, you understand. They mean something. They mean a great deal. There is nothing wrong with them. But I've wondered how in the world did Jesus ever preached the Gospel without using those words too much. How did He do it?

Apparently, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. And I get the thiamine in the whole wheat bread just the same as the people a hundred years ago got it that never heard of thiamine. It hadn't been discovered yet, you understand, 100 years ago.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

"Come unto Me," He invited as He held out His hands to the weary multitudes.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" Isaiah 45:22.

All that we need is in Jesus, dear friends. But, I ask again, Is Christ *divided*? Can I come to Him as I might go to a store and say, "I'd like that article up there on the shelf just back of the cash register; will you get that article for me please, I would like to have that"?

No, friends. I either take Him entirely or else I don't have Him. He is not to be divided. For example, Christ offers no pardon to the man who refuses to accept His righteous life. You say then, "Then does the man have to be perfect before he's forgiven?" Not so. Nothing remotely like that, dear friend. But I cannot be pardoned for a sin which I have no intention of surrendering.

For example, suppose I have a pack of cigarettes in my pocket. I hear the Gospel, I hear the good news of the cross of Jesus, His death as atonement for sin, and I realize that tobacco is certainly not the way to get ready for Heaven. I realize it has been harming my heart, my lungs, my brain. I've read in the Bible perhaps, or someone reads to me in the Bible,

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are"

1 Corinthians 3:17.

And I say, "Well, I need to be pardoned. I need to be forgiven."

And so, having heard the Gospel, I accept it, that is, I accept a part that tells me I am pardoned, that I am justified, I am forgiven. And I say, "Oh, I am so thankful now. I don't need to be lost. I've been *saved*."

Now, what are you going to do about the tobacco? Oh, I say, "Well, of course, I hope someday, maybe, I'll break away from it. But the Lord knows I'm weak, so I'll just keep right on smoking."

Is Christ divided, my friend? Does He offer me His pardon without His power? Will He offer me salvation from the penalty of sin without offering me salvation from *sin*? Will He do that? Can I accept one without the other? What is it that I really want when I come to Jesus? Is it just to escape going to hell, or do I long to be delivered from *sin*? That's the question. Can I have one without the other? No. No. Christ is not divided. Whatever elements of pardon and power, acceptance, and victory are found in Jesus, I must accept Him as a whole Savior, an entire Savior.

The book *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 314:

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.' John 1:12. This power is not in the human agent"  
*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 314.

Can I forgive my own sins? No more can I originate the power to overcome sin.

"This power is not in the human agent. It is the power of God. When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ" *Ibid*.

How do I get the power? By receiving *Jesus Christ*, the power of God and the wisdom of God. Oh, what a wonderful gift He is! What do you say, friends? And I am so glad it's this way because this is simple, I can get hold of this. And as I talked with that 16-year-old boy from the gangs of New York City the other afternoon, I was so glad that I could give him the Gospel simply, dear friends. To receive Jesus, to come just as he was, and that Christ would accept him as he accepted the Lord. Aren't you thankful?

Oh, this is the help that I need as I daily meet the temptations that appeal to my own nature. I thank God for Jesus, Who not only has pardon, but power. And I know that as I accept Him, receive Him, He is indeed the righteousness of God.

"Righteousness is right doing" *Ibid.*, page 312.

Will you repeat that with me? "Righteousness is right doing."

What is righteousness? Right doing.

"Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine" *Ibid.*

And on the next page:

"Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness" *Ibid.*, page 313.

And so as *Messages to Young People*, page 35, says:

"Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without" *Messages to Young People*, page 35.

When I accept Christ into my heart, the living Christ takes up His place on the throne, and through the indwelling Christ, I have power to do what? To live that righteous life in harmony with the law of God, for that's the standard of righteousness. Now, *Mount of Blessing*, page 18.

"Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and 'God is love.' 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for 'all Thy commandments are righteousness' (Psalm 119:172), and 'love is the fulfilling of the law' (Romans 13:10). Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him" *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 18.

Let me read that last sentence again.

"We receive righteousness by receiving Him" *Ibid.*

Together:

"We receive righteousness by receiving Him" *Ibid.*

How do we receive righteousness? By receiving Him. What do we receive when we receive Him? Righteousness.

"Well," somebody says, "But Brother Frazee, now listen, which is it? Is it imputed

righteousness, or imparted righteousness?" Bless your heart. Is Christ divided? You mean I can receive Jesus and only get imputed righteousness, or I may receive Jesus and also get imparted righteousness? Perish the thought, my friend. Perish the thought.

Is Christ divided? No. He's not divided at all. In this same page in *Messages to Young People*, page 35, I read:

"The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven" *Messages to Young People*, page 35.

That's enough to study on a whole Sabbath afternoon, isn't it? But listen, friend, in your study of it don't lose the simplicity of it. We receive righteousness, *all* the righteousness: the imputed righteousness, the imparted righteousness, our title to Heaven, our fitness for Heaven; we receive it all by receiving—Jesus. And we don't get any of it without receiving *Him*.

Well listen, if I get it all when I receive Him and I can't get any of it unless I do receive Him, doesn't that keep it pretty simple? Why not keep accepting Him and receiving Him day by day. What do you say? And listen, while if I'm interested in chemistry I may get into the study of what's in this bread, I used to enjoy food chemistry very much, I still do. I can't keep up with all the new things they discover, but friends, there's one thing I can keep up with: I keep eating this every day. [Mild Laughter] And I am getting it. I am getting all the new things they discovered and some more they haven't found out yet.

Yes, I'm getting it every day because I'm feeding on the bread. And Jesus says, "I am the living bread which came down from Heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever" John 6:51.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

But somebody says, "I know, Elder Frazee, but I am such a sinner." Bless your heart, that's why Jesus came down here to *get* you. He had a universe full of people who weren't sinners, but He came here to get *you*. "This Man receiveth sinners." (Luke 15. 2) Thank God, thank God. That's why I *need* Jesus, is because I'm a sinner, a poor, weak man. But oh, I'm thankful that I received Him. And just the moment I accept Him, I'm justified. Just the moment that I accept Him, I'm accepted. But friends, notice: He does more than merely pardon me, as a governor might pardon a convicted criminal sentenced to hang. Oh, it's infinitely more than that!

“...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” John 1:12.

*Jesus* is our victory over sin, as well as our pardon from sin. The Angel said:

“Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins” Matthew 1:21.

In the *Review and Herald* of July 7, 1904, the messenger to the remnant said:

“In the lives of many of those whose names are on the church books, there has been no genuine change... They profess to accept Christ as their Saviour, but they do not believe that He will give them power to overcome their sins” *Review and Herald*, July 7, 1904.

Well, if they profess to believe in Christ as their Savior, what do they believe? They believe they've been saved from death, saved from hell. But they haven't taken hold of the fact that Jesus came to save His people from their *sins*. And again, I ask, is Christ divided? Will Christ save me from the penalty of sin when I have no intention of giving *up* my sin?

Now, let me help somebody who is perfectly willing to give up your sins, but your problem is not that; your problem is believing. Believing. Let me ask you something: Do you believe that Jesus forgives sins when we confess them? Do you? How do you believe it? Why do you believe it? The only truthful answer can be is because He said so. His Word is pledged.

Mind you, then, the same Christ that has promised to forgive your sins when you confess them and accept Him, has promised to give you victory when you accept Him. And the faith you lay hold of that by, is the same kind of faith it takes to believe your sins are forgiven.

Here's this man with the cigarettes I was talking about. There he is with a package of the cigarettes in his pocket. He wants to be forgiven, but what else does he want? He wants to have power to do what? To quit it. When? Right now. Does Jesus have that power? Is He giving it, is He offering it to that poor sinner in two separate compartments? Does He say come to the altar tonight and be forgiven, and come back next week, and we'll help you to get the power to quit the tobacco? Is that the program? Why no. It's all in one package, dear friends. Christ is not divided. The thiamine and the amino acids, the starch and all the protein, it's all wrapped up in one grain of wheat, in one sack of flour, in one loaf of bread, in one slice of it. And even if I only eat *half* a slice, I get all those elements, right? Praise God, dear friends, the Gospel is simple. Why make it complicated? Why make it so complicated it confuses people, and they



wonder how they can ever reach the standard. Let's keep it simple.

Come to Jesus, accept Him and believe His promise. But says one, "I've tried and I've failed." Well, why not ask Jesus to accept you anew as you accept Him anew, and go at it again.

Peter had a problem. It took him awhile to learn some of these things, but he learned them. Didn't he? Yes. And Jesus didn't get discouraged with him because he failed; He didn't get discouraged with him at all. And He'll not get discouraged with you. But the point is, friend, if you should fail, don't start running around looking for another Gospel. You might find it; that would be unfortunate.

"...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Oh, I repeat, I'm thankful for the blessed righteousness of Jesus.

Now, do not ever get the idea that if you are successful in laying hold of all these promises, you will thereby come to the point where you will look good to yourself. In the little book, *The Faith I Live By*, page 140, I read this tremendous statement:

No one who claims holiness is really holy. Those who are registered as holy in the books of heaven are not aware of the fact, and are the last ones to boast of their own goodness.  
*The Faith I Live By*, page 140.

So whether it's today or tomorrow or next week or next year, or during the Loud Cry, or at the close of probation, or during Jacob's trouble, look at the child of God wherever you will in that progression, and you'll not find him in a place where he says, "I have arrived, I'm holy, I'm sinless, I am righteous." Do you know what they depend on today, tomorrow, next week, next month, all the way through? Jesus Christ. And they have no thought that *imparted* righteousness is theirs any more than *imputed* righteousness is theirs. They know that every bit of righteousness they ever had—past, present, future—is a gift from God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so to *Him* is the glory, world without end.

"...as it is written, He that glories, let him glory in the Lord"  
1 Corinthians 1:31.

"My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the humble shall hear thereof and be glad" Psalm 34:2.

The dying thief rejoiced to see

That fountain in his day  
And there may I though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away.

Oh friends, yesterday I needed Him, today I need Him, tomorrow I shall need Him. Thank God, He's the same yesterday, and today, and forever. The living bread which came down from Heaven and all I need is in Him. So let me come with my hunger, and He will feed me. Let me come with my thirst, and He will give me the living water. Let me come with my wounds, and as the Great Physician, He will heal me. Let me come with my sins, and as the Redeemer, He will take my sins and give me His righteousness.

"...as many as received Him, to them gave He power to  
become the sons of God, even to them that believe on  
His name" John 1:12

Aren't you thankful for it tonight?

[Testimony service]

Remember friends:

"The relations between God and each soul are as  
distinct and full as though there were not another soul  
upon the earth..." *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

God loves you like you were the only man, the only woman, the only boy or girl in all this world. He really does; it's true. And so tonight, receive Him, claim Him, thank Him for the gift of Himself. Don't try to dissect Him up and divide Him up. Take Him, a *whole* Savior, a complete Redeemer. He's yours. As long as you have *Him*, you have everything.

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