

"What Is The Work Of God?"
The Gospel of John Chapter 6:22-40

The multitude fed by Jesus are perplexed that He is gone because the disciples and their boat are also missing. Upon finding Jesus on the other side of the sea, they inquire how He arrived there. Jesus, knowing their hearts, commands them not to labor for food that perishes. Physical food, while important (2Thess. 3:10), is not to be our primary focus (Matt. 6:33). The Lord used life events to teach spiritual truth (Deut. 6:4-9).

The Jews are still thinking in the physical realm (verse 28) as they inquire of the works of God. Jesus replies that there is only one work, and that is to believe (Heb. 11:6). It is not our work, but believing in Christ's work, in His redemption and Life (Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 12:1-2).

Verse 34 shows the Jews are still interpreting Jesus' words in the physical literal sense, like the Samaritan woman (Jhn. 4:15). Jesus responds with "I am **the** bread of the life." This is the first of the seven great "I Am's" (Greek *ego eimi*) found in the Gospel of John. He is the Light of the world (8:12); the Door (10:7, 9); the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14); the Resurrection and the Life (11:25); the Way, the Truth and the Life (14:6); and the true Vine (15:1, 5). All are claims of Divinity! As physical bread nourishes and sustains the body, Christ is the spiritual bread that gives life and sustains the soul and the spirit of all who believe in Him.

John emphasizes the person and work of Christ in verse 38. It is to do the Father's will (Matt. 26:39, 42, 44). God's sovereign work in Christ had to be accomplished (Acts 2:23). Yet God did not negate man's choices in the Garden (Gen. 2:15-17) nor with those who crucified Christ (Acts 2:36-39; Rom. 8:32). All that the Father gives will come, and the ones who come will in no way be cast out. Election is clearly taught in God's word (Eph. 1:4), yet there is no contradiction between His sovereignty and man's free will. His ways are higher than our ways, and His secrets are not always revealed (Deut. 29:29; Isa. 55:8-9; Jhn. 3:5-8). Two rails of a train track are clearly separated up close, yet they appear to merge in the distance. In eternity, we will see the rails of God's sovereign will and man's will in undistorted light.

The security of the believer is also emphasized in Jesus' discourse (verses 35, 37, 39-40, 44). It is an integral part of John's gospel (Jhn. 3:16, 18, 10:27-29). Eternal security is not based on our hold of Him, but His hold on us (2Tim. 1:12). May we ever rejoice in Christ and His work!