

John 6:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' Jesus redirects priorities—don't work for perishable food but for eternal sustenance. Physical bread satisfies temporarily; spiritual bread satisfies eternally. The Son of Man gives this food; the Father has authenticated (sealed) Him. Pursuing eternal life isn't passive but active—labor is involved, though the food is gift.

Historical Context

The Father 'sealing' the Son refers to authentication, perhaps at baptism when the Spirit descended and the Father spoke. This confirms Jesus' authority to give eternal life. The Jewish audience valued hard work for physical provision; Jesus elevates spiritual pursuit above material concerns.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we 'labor' for eternal food when it is a gift?
2. What does God the Father sealing the Son mean for our confidence in Christ?

Interlinear Text

ἐργάζεσθε μὴ ὃ βρῶσιν ὃ ἀπολλυμένην ἀλλὰ
Labour **not** **which** **for that meat** **which** **perisheth** **but**
G2038 G3361 G3588 G1035 G3588 G622 G235

ὃ βρῶσιν ὃ μένουσαν εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἦν
which **for that meat** **which** **endureth** **unto** **life** **everlasting** **which**
G3588 G1035 G3588 G3306 G1519 G2222 G166 G3739

ὃ υἱὸς ὃ ἀνθρώπου ὑμῖν δώσει· τοῦτον γὰρ
which **the Son** **which** **of man** **unto you** **shall give** **him** **for**
G3588 G5207 G3588 G444 G5213 G1325 G5126 G1063

ὃ πατὴρ ἐσφράγισεν ὃ θεός
which **the Father** **hath** **which** **God**
G3588 G3962 G4972 G3588 G2316

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:2 (Parallel theme): Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Isaiah 55:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

John 6:54 (Eternal Life): Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

2 Timothy 2:19 (References God): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

John 6:40 (Eternal Life): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Romans 6:23 (Eternal Life): For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 10:28 (Eternal Life): And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

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

Matthew 6:19 (Parallel theme): Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Acts 10:38 (References God): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.