

John 6:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Analysis

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. The present participle 'ho trōgōn' (the one eating/chewing) indicates ongoing, continuous action—not a one-time event but continual feeding on Christ. The verb 'trōgō' is visceral, meaning to chew or gnaw, emphasizing real, intimate appropriation. 'Drinking blood' compounds the offense to Jewish ears but underscores complete identification with Christ's sacrificial death. The present tense 'echei' (has) indicates present possession of eternal life, not merely future hope. The promise 'I will raise him up' (ego anastēsō auton) provides Christ's personal guarantee of resurrection. Reformed theology sees here the perseverance of the saints—those truly united to Christ possess eternal life now and will certainly be raised. This verse connects justification (present life) with glorification (future resurrection) in Christ.

Historical Context

This intensifies the shocking language from verse 52. The phrase 'drinking blood' would horrify first-century Jews, for whom blood consumption was absolutely forbidden (Leviticus 17:10-14, Acts 15:20). Yet Jesus doesn't retreat but presses forward, because only such radical language captures the totality of union with Christ required for salvation. Early Christian communion practices led to false accusations of cannibalism from Roman persecutors. The church fathers, particularly Ignatius and Irenaeus, understood this language as referring both to faith-union with Christ's person and participation in the Lord's Supper, which

signifies and seals that union. The mention of resurrection 'at the last day' reflects Jewish eschatological hope, fulfilled in Christ.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the continuous tense ('the one eating') teach about ongoing faith and dependence on Christ?
2. How does present possession of eternal life affect your daily living and long-term perspective?
3. What is the connection between feeding on Christ now and resurrection at the last day?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	τρώγων	μου	τὴν	σάρκα	καὶ	πίνων	μου	τὸ	αἷμα
G3588	Whoso eateth	my	G3588	flesh	and	drinketh	my	G3588	blood
	G5176	G3450		G4561	G2532	G4095	G3450		G129
ἔχει	ζωὴν	αἰώνιον	καὶ	ἐγὼ	ἀναστήσω	αὐτὸν	τῇ		
hath	life	eternal	and	I	up	him	G3588		
G2192	G2222	G166	G2532	G1473	G450	G846			
ἐσχάτη	ἡμέρα								
at the last	day								
G2078	G2250								

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:26 (Resurrection): The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

John 6:63 (Parallel theme): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:47 (Eternal Life): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Galatians 2:20 (Parallel theme): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

John 4:14 (Eternal Life): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 6:27 (Eternal Life): 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.