

Message Ten
**Eating the Scroll—
Eating and Digesting the Word of God**

MR *Hymns*: 814, 1219

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 2:8—3:3; Jer. 15:16a; Rev. 10:8-10;

Matt. 4:4; John 6:63; 1 Pet. 2:2-3; Heb. 5:13-14

Ezek 2:8	But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you.
Ezek 2:9	And I looked, and there was a hand, put forth toward me; and in it there was a scroll book.
Ezek 2:10	And He spread it before me. And it was written on the front and back, and on it were written lamentations, mourning, and woe.
Ezek 3:1	Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
Ezek 3:2	So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
Ezek 3:3	And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
Jer 15:16a	Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, ...
Rev 10:8	And the voice which I heard out of heaven, I heard again speaking with me and saying, Go, take the opened scroll in the hand of the Angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.
Rev 10:9	And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.
Rev 10:10	And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
Matt 4:4	But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
John 6:63	It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
1 Pet 2:2	As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
1 Pet 2:3	If you have tasted that the Lord is good.
Heb 5:13	For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
Heb 5:14	But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

I. In Ezekiel 2:8—3:4 the prophet Ezekiel ate the scroll and spoke with God's words, and in Revelation 10:8-11 the apostle John ate the scroll and prophesied:

Ezek 2:8	But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you.
Ezek 2:9	And I looked, and there was a hand, put forth toward me; and in it there was a scroll book.
Ezek 2:10	And He spread it before me. And it was written on the front and back, and on it were written lamentations, mourning, and woe.
Ezek 3:1	Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
Ezek 3:2	So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
Ezek 3:3	And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
Ezek 3:4	Then He said to me, Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.
Rev 10:8	And the voice which I heard out of heaven, I heard again speaking with me and saying, Go, take the opened scroll in the hand of the Angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.
Rev 10:9	And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.
Rev 10:10	And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
Rev 10:11	And they said to me, You must prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.

- A. A scroll was spread before Ezekiel, and he was told to eat it and then speak to the house of Israel—Ezek. 2:9—3:1:
- Ezek 2:9 And I looked, and there was a hand, put forth toward me; and in it there was a scroll book.
 Ezek 2:10 And He spread it before me. And it was written on the front and back, and on it were written lamentations, mourning, and woe.
 Ezek 3:1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
1. Ezekiel opened his mouth, and Jehovah gave him that scroll to eat—v. 2.
 Ezek 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
 2. Ezekiel was commanded to feed his stomach and to fill his inward parts with this scroll—v. 3a.
 Ezek 3:3a And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. ...
 3. After Ezekiel ate the scroll, Jehovah charged him to go to the house of Israel and speak with His words to them—vv. 3b-4.
 Ezek 3:3b ... And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
 Ezek 3:4 Then He said to me, Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.
- B. In Revelation 10:8-11 John was told to take the opened scroll that was in the hand of Christ as another Angel (v. 1), devour it, and prophesy over many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings:
- Rev 10:8 And the voice which I heard out of heaven, I heard again speaking with me and saying, Go, take the opened scroll in the hand of the Angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.
 Rev 10:9 And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.
 Rev 10:10 And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
 Rev 10:11 And they said to me, You must prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.
 Rev 10:1 And I saw another strong Angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon His head, and His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire;
1. John not only received the scroll—he devoured it—v. 10.
 Rev 10:10 And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
 2. To devour anything is to receive it into one's being.
 3. We must receive the divine revelation in this way; both Jeremiah and Ezekiel did this— Jer. 15:16a; Ezek. 2:8; 3:1-3.
 Jer 15:16a Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, ...
 Ezek 2:8 But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you.
 Ezek 3:1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
 Ezek 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
 Ezek 3:3 And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.

II. “Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart”— Jer. 15:16a:

- A. According to the entire revelation in the Holy Bible, God's words are good for us to eat, and

we need to eat them—Psa. 119:103; Matt. 4:4; Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2-3.

Psa 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! / Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Heb 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

B. God's word is the divine supply as food to nourish us—Matt. 4:4:

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

1. Through the word as our food, God dispenses His riches into our inner being to nourish us that we may be constituted with His element— John 6:63.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

2. This is a crucial aspect of God's economy—1 Tim. 1:4; Eph. 1:10; 3:9.

1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

C. When we eat God's words, His word becomes our heart's gladness and joy— Jer. 15:16a.

Jer 15:16a Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, ...

III. We need to eat the words of the Bible— John 6:63; 1 Pet. 2:2-3; Heb. 5:12-14:

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Heb 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

A. The word of God is not mainly for knowledge but for nourishment—v. 12:

Heb 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

1. Although the Bible is a book of teaching, its teaching is not merely to impart mental knowledge but to minister food to us— Jer. 15:16a.

Jer 15:16a Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, ...

2. The words *milk* and *solid food* in Hebrews 5:12 indicate that the word of God is for nourishment.

Heb 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of

- God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.
- B. The Lord Jesus took the word of God in the Scriptures as His bread and lived on it—Matt. 4:4.
 Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
- C. "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life"—John 6:63b:
 1. The words of the Lord Jesus are the embodiment of the Spirit of life—Rom. 8:2.
 Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 2. Christ is now the life-giving Spirit in resurrection, and the Spirit is embodied in His words—1 Cor. 15:45b; John 6:63b.
 1 Cor 15:45b ...the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
 John 6:63b ... the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
 3. When we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we receive the Spirit, who is life.
- D. We need to be nourished with the guileless milk of God's word—1 Pet. 2:2:
 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
 1. The guileless milk is conveyed in the word of God to nourish our inner man through the understanding of our rational mind and is assimilated by our mental faculties—Rom. 8:6; cf. Deut. 11:18.
 Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 Deut 11:18 Therefore you shall lay these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them on your hand as a sign, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes;
 2. Although the nourishing milk of the word is for the soul through the mind, it eventually nourishes the spirit, making us not soulish but spiritual, suitable for being built up as a spiritual house of God—cf. 1 Cor. 2:15.
 1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one.
 3. In order to enjoy the milk of the word, to taste God with His goodness in the word, we must receive His word by means of all prayer—1 Pet. 2:3; Eph. 6:17-18.
 1 Pet 2:3 If you have tasted that the Lord is good.
 Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
 Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- E. We need to advance from the milk of the word in 1 Peter 2:2 to the word of righteousness as the solid food in Hebrews 5:13-14:
 1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,
 Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
 Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
 1. Whereas milk is mainly for infants, solid food is for the mature—1 Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:13-14.
 1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able,
 Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
 Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
 2. To eat the word of righteousness as the solid food is a strong way to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ.

3. The word of righteousness embodies the thought of God's justice and righteousness in His dispensational and governmental dealings with His people—v. 13:
 - Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
 - a. Righteousness is being right with persons, things, and matters before God according to His righteous and strict requirements—Matt. 5:20.
 - Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.
 - b. Righteousness is a matter of God's throne and of being right with God in our being—Psa. 89:14a; 1 Cor. 15:34; 2 Cor. 5:21.
 - Psa 89:14a Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; ...
 - 1 Cor 15:34 Awake from the drunken stupor righteously and do not sin, for some of you are ignorant of God. I speak to your shame.
 - 2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - c. If we would eat the solid food, the word of righteousness, we need experience and exercise—Heb. 5:13-14.
 - Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
 - Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

IV. The way for the believers to experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity in their daily living is to eat, digest, and assimilate the Lord Jesus as food by feeding on the word of God— John 6:35, 51-57, 63:

- John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
 - John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
 - John 6:52 The Jews then contended with one another, saying, How can this man give us His flesh to eat?
 - John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.
 - John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.
 - John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
 - John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.
 - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 - John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
- A. God's economy is that we eat, digest, and assimilate Christ to be constituted with Him in order to express Him and represent Him—1 Tim. 1:4; John 6:35, 51, 57; Gen. 1:26:
 - 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
 - John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
 - John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
 - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 - Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

1. God's economy is not a matter of outward things but of Christ coming into us inwardly; for this we need to take Christ by eating, digesting, and assimilating Him—Eph. 3:17a; John 6:57b.
 Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 John 6:57b ... so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 2. God's eternal plan is to dispense Himself into us so that He becomes every fiber of our inward being; He wants to be eaten, digested, and assimilated by us so that He can become our constituent—2 Cor. 13:14.
 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- B. The Triune God becomes our life and life supply by entering into us organically to be assimilated into the fibers of our spiritual being—Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:23.
 Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
 Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- C. To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us so that He may be digested and assimilated by the regenerated new man in the way of life; we need to eat, digest, and assimilate Jesus as our spiritual food day by day—John 6:51-57.
 John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
 John 6:52 The Jews then contended with one another, saying, How can this man give us His flesh to eat?
 John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.
 John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.
 John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
 John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.
 John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- D. We should not only believe into the Lord Jesus and receive Him but also eat Him, digest Him, and assimilate Him, allowing Him to become the content of our being—3:15-16; 6:51-57.
 John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
 John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
 John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.
 John 6:52 The Jews then contended with one another, saying, How can this man give us His flesh to eat?
 John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.
 John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.
 John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
 John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.
 John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- E. As we eat the Lord Jesus, we need to have proper spiritual digestion—Ezek. 2:8—3:3; Jer. 15:16a; Rev. 10:9-10:
 Ezek 2:8 But you, son of man, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I give you.
 Ezek 2:9 And I looked, and there was a hand, put forth toward me; and in it there was a scroll book.

- Ezek 2:10 And He spread it before me. And it was written on the front and back, and on it were written lamentations, mourning, and woe.
- Ezek 3:1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
- Ezek 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
- Ezek 3:3 And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
- Jer 15:16a Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, ...
- Rev 10:9 And I went to the Angel and told Him to give me the little scroll. And He said to me, Take it and devour it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.
- Rev 10:10 And I took the little scroll out of the hand of the Angel and devoured it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth; and when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
1. If we have good digestion, there will be a thoroughfare for the food to get into every part of our inward being—Eph. 3:16-17a.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
 2. Indigestion means that there is no way for Christ as the spiritual food to get into our inward parts—Heb. 3:12-13, 15; 4:2:

Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin--

Heb 3:15 While it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation."

Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.

 - a. Indigestion means that there is no way for the Lord as the spiritual food to get through in us.
 - b. When there is no free course for the food to get into our inward parts, we will have indigestion.
 3. We need to keep our whole being, with all our inward parts, open to the Lord so that the spiritual food will have a thoroughfare within us; if we do this, we will have proper digestion and assimilation, we will absorb Christ as spiritual nourishment, and Christ will become our constituent for the expression of God—Eph. 3:16-17a; Col. 3:4, 10-11.

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
 4. By eating we have digesting; by digesting we have assimilation; and by assimilation we get the practical nourishment of the riches of Christ into our being, and these riches grow into our organic tissues—Eph. 3:8.

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
 5. Any believer who receives the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity by eating, digesting, and assimilating the Lord Jesus will live because of Him—John 6:57b.

John 6:57b ... so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

- F. Because we all partake of Christ as the one bread, we are one Body—the corporate Christ, the Body-Christ—to carry out God’s administration for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose—1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12; Eph. 3:11; 5:30.
- 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.