

Solid Food

Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Bible Matters Sources

Introduction:

A. 1Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12 - 6:3

I. UNDERSTANDING SOLID FOOD

A. What is solid food?

1. Defined by its counterpart, spiritual milk
2. Spiritual milk consists of fundamental and first principle doctrines of Christianity: plan of salvation, the resurrection, the judgment
3. Solid food would be development beyond the basic tenets of the faith

B. In the New Testament, partaking of solid food is associated with maturity

II. SOURCES OF SOLID FOOD

A. Higher understanding of doctrines

1. There are many fundamental doctrines which over time, one can develop a more mature understanding; example: baptism
2. While in the conversion accounts in Acts, baptism is simply commanded and the purpose mentioned
3. Acts 2:38, 10:48, 19:4-6
4. In Paul's epistles, he elaborated on the nature of baptism; it is a type of Christ's burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-7), that baptism is putting on Christ (Gal. 3:27)
5. These represent higher understandings of basic doctrines

B. Deeper doctrines

1. Example: Christ as High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7)
 - a. One needs a basic understanding of who Melchizedek was and of his interactions with Abraham
 - b. One needs to understand the basics of the Levitical priesthood
 - c. One needs to understand why Jesus cannot be a Levitical priest
2. These doctrines require a more developed faith that comes of long term exposure to the word of God

C. Making a wise choice between two right things - 1Cor. 10:23

1. As we develop in the faith, we learn that at times things labeled as sinful may not actually be sinful according to the law, but be unprofitable
 - a. Alcohol use - Gal. 5:19-21
 - b. The New Testament condemns drunkenness, but no Scripture actually condemns its use at any level as sinful - 1Tim. 5:23
 - c. We recognize that alcohol consumption is closer to the works of the flesh than the fruit of the Spirit, that it is not necessary to drink alcohol, and therefore it is spiritually unprofitable to do so
2. Divorce for fornication: while the New Testament certainly gives the right for one to divorce an unfaithful spouse, it is not required, and it might not be the most spiritually profitable thing to do
 - a. One could consider the matter and choose to forgive and try to restore the marriage

D. Old Testament interpretation

1. 1Cor. 10:1-4
2. All of these matters are not strictly necessary to be saved, but they help us understand the message better and be further edified in the faith

E. Extra-Biblical sources

1. Acts 17:28; 2Sam. 1:17-18
2. Apocryphal works, historical works of Flavius Josephus, works of language scholars, evidences
3. As with any writing of man, one must have the ability to discern what is good and in harmony with the Scriptures, and discard all that is not scriptural
4. It requires maturity in the faith; the Hebrews were not ready

III. DANGERS IN DIGESTING SOLID FOOD

A. Failing to refresh on first principles

1. Some have gone astray because they became so involved with uncertain deeper matters that they forgot to measure them against the truth of the foundational doctrines
2. Col. 2:18-19; 2Peter 1:12-13

B. Arrogance

1. 1Cor. 8:1
2. One may begin to feel superior to brethren who have not advanced as far in the faith, or be puffed up by knowledge

C. Causing offense to developing disciples

1. 1Cor. 8:7-9

Conclusion:

- A. 1Cor. 2:9-16