



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

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# The Cross and Crown

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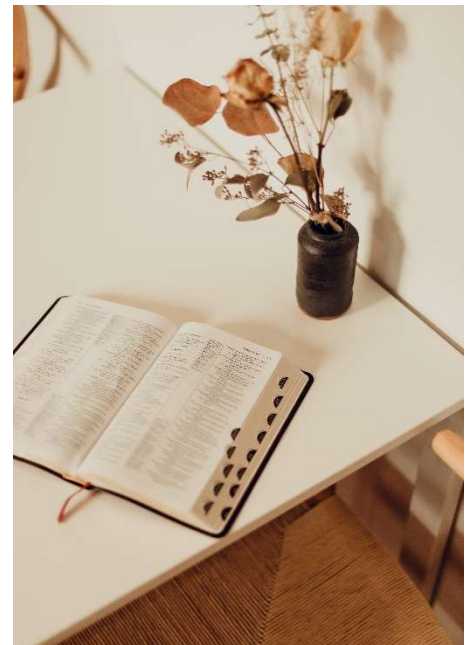
Large crowds followed Jesus after he fed the four and five thousand. Shortly after that, Jesus said something that made many of them turn back from following: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them." (John 6:53–56). Many of his disciples abandoned him, telling him that this was a hard teaching. Well, it *is* hard – unless we know the Scriptures!

In the first chapter of his Gospel, John, speaking of Jesus' incarnation, says that the Word – Jesus – became flesh and made his dwelling among us. This means that, when Jesus spoke about his flesh to the crowd, he was speaking of the Word of God! Moses himself spoke out in agreement, asserting that the Law was more than just idle words for the Israelites but was, in fact, their life! (Deuteronomy 32:47)

Consider that, when Moses was on the mountain receiving the Law, he ate nothing for forty days and forty nights. The Word of God sustained him, symbolically and, most likely, literally – in the same way that the manna sustained the Israelites for forty years. Jesus drew the comparison himself, a few verses earlier in our passage from John, contrasting manna, the bread from heaven that was eaten by their ancestors who died, with his flesh, the living bread from Heaven, which they could eat and live forever! (verses 48–51)

Although many disciples abandoned him after this teaching, the Twelve remained. As Peter explained, only Jesus had the words of eternal life. The Word alone – Jesus in the flesh – will carry us through to eternal life!

My mother had a big, Ryrie Study Bible that she kept in her lap and read, out loud, to herself whenever she rode in the car. While she worked around the house, she had the Bible on tape playing throughout the house through speakers connected to the home stereo. Taking Jesus' words to heart, she consumed the Word like a hungry, eager child. May God's Spirit impart to us all that ravenous hunger for his eternal Word!



*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

*(Acts 4:12)*

# Thanks for Praying!

You're praying and God's moving! Thank you so much! Whatever you do, please don't stop interceding for

- our Sunday morning Connection Circles (small group discipleship classes for all ages),
- our remaining summer outreach ministries,
- our preparation for fall ministries, in both the church and the academy, and
- financial provision for the ministries and missionaries we support.







Please pray with us as we connect with our community on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>!

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

We love hearing from you! Drop us a note and let us know you're out there!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

On shortest day of the year, the sun comes up in Fairbanks, Alaska, at 10:50 a.m. and sets again at 2:41, making the day 3 hours and 51 minutes long. In Barrow, Alaska, on the other hand, the sun will have set on November 18<sup>th</sup>, to rise again on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, for 66 hours of night.

**“My eyes stay open through the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promises.” (Psalm 119:148)**



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