

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness Christ, Our Confidence; John 6:35-40

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty."

Implication: If we do not come to Christ then we will remain hungry and thirsty.

The default state is that of hunger and thirst. The default state is a state of spiritual death. The default state is that of separation from God, without hope and without life. The default state is physical death and spiritual death will completely overcome us. The default state is one of being destined to be "cast out."

Is it really that bad? Is that really my situation outside of Christ? I think I'm a pretty good person and really don't have that big of a need.

A clear conscience is the sure sign of a bad memory. —Mark Twain

Humans, having turned from the contemplation of God to evil of their own devising, had come inevitably under the law of death. Instead of remaining in the state in which God had created them, they were in process of becoming corrupted entirely, and death had them completely under its dominion. Athanasius On the Incarnation

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John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down out of heaven.

It was our sorry case that caused the Word to come down, our transgression that called out His love for us, so that He quickly came to help us and to appear among us. It is we who were the cause of His taking human form, and for our salvation that in His great love He was both born and took a human body. Athanasius On the Incarnation

The only certainty outside of Christ is our default condition of death and eternal separation: a forever hunger, a forever thirst. Hell is the perpetual state of soul hopelessness and despair, a longing that will never be satisfied.

John 6:36-37 "But I said to you that you have indeed seen Me, and yet you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I certainly will not cast out."

Implication: If we come to Christ then we will remain in a state of being filled, of soul satisfaction both now and forever.

The transformed state is a state of satisfaction.

The transformed state is a state of spiritual life.

The transformed state is united with God, with everlasting hope and everlasting life.

The transformed state is one of physical life and spiritual life that can never be lost.

The transformed state is one of being secure in our relationship with God now and forever.

We will never be “cast out.”

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing, but will raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

This certainty has a very specific end in mind: the resurrection from the dead. Everyone who receive life by receiving Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior of the World, will be raised to life at the culmination of history.

Quote from family who’s 19-year-old daughter died. They have taken solace in believing she “will only finally die when the last of us who remember her dies.”

Outside of Christ, hopelessness, at best mental gymnastics to make this life tolerable in the face of death itself. In Christ, the hope is that we will live, more alive than we were ever alive in this life.