God’s Gift of True Bread: The Flesh of the Son of God for the Eternal Life of Chosen Disciples (John 6:22-71)

1. Jesus exposes false disciples and confirms the faith of true disciples (vv.60-71)
   1. The condition of false disciples (v.60-65)
      1. Many disciples respond to Christ’s words with repugnance (v.60; cf. 8:30; 1 John 2:19; Heb. 3:14)
      2. Christ responds to these disciples with penetrating words (v.61-65)
         1. He heightens the offense (vv.61-62)

*“If the disciples find Jesus’ claims, authority, and even his language offensive, what will they think when they see Jesus on the cross, his way of ‘ascending’ to the place where he was before? That is the supreme scandal. However offensive the linguistic expression ‘eating flesh and drinking blood’ may be, how much more offensive is the crucifixion of an alleged Messiah! The very idea is outrageous, bordering on blasphemous obscenity, ‘a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles’ (1 Cor. 1:23).” (Carson)*

* + - 1. He highlights what is underlying all unbelief (vv.63-65)
         1. The inability of mere flesh to believe apart from the life-giving Spirit (v.63)

The essential work of the Spirit (cf. Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30; Ezek. 37:9, 14; John 3:6-8; 6:44)

The essential means of Christ’s words (cf. John 3:5, 34; 5:24; 6:68)

* + - * 1. The absolute knowledge of Christ into unbelieving hearts (v.64)
        2. The reaffirmation of the necessity for sovereign grace (v.65; cf. 6:39, 44)
  1. The contrast between true and false disciples (vv.66-71)
     1. The apostasy of false disciples (v.66)
     2. The perseverance of true disciples (vv.67-71)
        1. The confession of a true disciple (vv.67-69)
        2. The sovereignty of God behind true disciples (vv.70-71)
           1. In His election (v.70)
           2. In His unshaken purposes (v.71; cf. 17:12)

**Implications:**

1) Know the proper use of the doctrines of grace.

2) Let the reality of false discipleship be a spur to drive you deeper into Christ and His Words.

3) The Spirit who gives life through Christ’s words to bring us to Christ continues to produce life in us through His words abiding in us (John 15:5, 7, 8).