

“Ask Pastor Mark | Three Cosmic Messages Edition” was posted on YouTube by HopeLives365 on 8/29/20. In this video, Mark Finley answers questions that are coming in via YouTube and Facebook.

Around 27:08 the question is asked, “Can you explain 1 Timothy 4:4 ‘ For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:’” The verse is quoted from the King James Version (KJV) but Mark attempts to answer the question with his New King James Version (NKJV) bible. He notes that in order to understand the verse, one must read some verses before and after the verse in question. Here are the verses referred to from both the KJV and the NKJV.

“(1) Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (3) Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. (4) For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: (5) For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:1-5 from the KJV.

“(1) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, (3) forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. (4) For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; (5) for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:1-5 from the NKJV.

Mark notes the passage is speaking of a group of people that say not to marry and to abstain from “foods.” It is true that “meat” and “meats” in the KJV means “food” whether of plant or animal origin. In this case the context of the passage clearly shows that the type of food referred to is flesh food; otherwise the word “creature” would not enter into the discussion. Mark apparently isn’t satisfied with what either the KJV or his NKJV says because he finds it necessary to edit his “Bible.” Since he knows Greek, he apparently considers himself more competent in that venue than the fifty plus scholars that translated the KJV and the multiple scholars that translated the NKJV. He believes the passage should read “all foods” because the Greek word is *broma* and allegedly means “all foods.” Mark apparently knows more than the author of Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible who thought *broma* should mean “food” or “meat” with nothing about “all” in the definition. Putting “all” in there is important so Mark can further edit what God said.

Mark says, “there’s a group of people, that believe that if they don’t get married and they fast for excessively, they will then have some merit of salvation.” I can think of a group of people that believe not marrying gives merit toward receiving salvation; this does not contradict the reading of either the KJV or the NKJV. The part about fasting “for excessively” is not supported by

either the KJV or the NKJV so Mark had to edit his “Bible” prove his point; i.e., by saying “all foods” he can make his “Bible” mean no food at all. To help Mark out, I’d like to remind him that there is a group of people who believe no flesh food except fish should be eaten on Friday. In my opinion that fits a bit better.

Mark asks his YouTube audience if we would think it good to eat rats, snakes and cockroaches. I haven’t heard of a culture that eats cockroaches, but even in the U.S.A. there are those who are happy with eating certain snakes. In parts of Mexico and Africa, rats are considered good food. He says it’s pretty obvious God isn’t telling us to eat rats, snakes or skunks. He’s right, there is no mention of a specific meat in the above verses but BOTH the KJV and the NKJV say that what is eaten “is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” He goes on to say that the food has to be sanctified “by the word of God.” Sorry, he is leaving out an important part of the sentence; it says the food “is sanctified by the word of God.”

There is a better explanation. The Word says regarding the food, “if it be received with thanksgiving.” Maybe it has happened but I’ve never heard of anyone being able to receive and eat a skunk “with thanksgiving.” In addition, it is highly doubtful that the Greeks ate skunk so it was probably well understood that Paul wasn’t talking about skunk. The Greeks ate pig but you will find NOTHING in the New Testament that forbids the eating of pork. In Acts 15:20, Acts 15:29 and in Acts 21:25 the Gentiles were told to refrain from fornication, from eating things strangled and from consuming blood; there was NOTHING said about clean or unclean meats. If God intended that the Gentiles were to be forbidden pork, etc., the book of Acts would have been a good place for Luke to record that.

There is another verse in the NKJV that completely shoots holes in Mark’s theory that Paul meant only the foods designated as clean in the Old Testament should be eaten. The context is what Jesus told his disciples after they had been criticized for not washing their hands before eating.

“So He said to them, ‘Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?’” Mark 7:18-19 from the NKJV.

Read that carefully. It says the food enters the stomach and is then eliminated. “Eliminated” means the food has passed through the bowel and is expelled as feces. It says the food that has passed through the bowel has been purified. If the food has been purified by passing through the bowel, why not eat it? Mark asked if anyone would want to fry up a skunk and eat it. I will ask if anyone would like to fry up a pan of feces and eat it.

“And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?” Mark 7:18-19 from the KJV.

According to the real Protestant Bible, food is eaten, goes into the “belly” (intestines) and then goes into the “draught” (sewer) thus “purging” (eliminating) all “meats” (foods). It says nothing about feces being clean; feces should go into the sewer and shouldn’t be eaten.

To sum things up and taking both the Old and New Testaments into consideration I do not think what the Old Testament defines as unclean foods should be eaten. That said, there is nothing in the New Testament that would prohibit the Gentiles from eating swine. To corroborate Seventh-day Adventist’s opinion that foods defined as unclean under the Levitical Code shouldn’t be eaten, one has to go the Spirit of Prophecy. If one is to be guided by the Spirit of Prophecy, one shouldn’t be eating ANY type of flesh food if adequate plant sources of nutrition are available.

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