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## Eating Swine's flesh – harmful to body and faith

In His wisdom our Creator, Yahweh God Almighty, has much to say about what foods He would have us eat in order to maintain excellent health. Most people realize the harm that smoking, alcohol abuse, or drugs do to their body, but few are aware of the deteriorating effects which result from violating God's dietary laws.

For those searchers of truth in God's Word it should be pointed out that Jesus did not “do away with God's laws by a New Covenant”. The only part of God's Law that was set aside was the ceremonial law of the altar sacrifices, which in the Old Covenant depicted the Lamb of God (Jesus) who was to come for the purpose of sacrificing Himself on the cross to pay our judgment for sin, that we may have eternal life with God. The rest of God's laws for the family and nation still apply and were never “done away with” by Jesus Christ. (Mat. 5:17-20; Rom. 3:31; I Jn.3:4; Rom.6:1) Jesus became the sacrificial lamb and ended *the sacrificial law*, yet blessings and curses still follow God's remaining good laws.

Church going Christians continue to consume swine products (pig & hog) but don't stop to reason that they (usually) won't eat other repulsive meats from animal flesh unfit to eat. Pork (swine) eating is in the same category as eating mice, lizards, rats, ferrets, bats, or skunks:

*“And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.” (Leviticus 11:7)*

*“These also shall be unclean to you --- the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind, and the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, snail, and the mole.” (Lev. 11:29,30)*

Furthermore, the Bible says that pork eaters lowly esteem God's warnings and are rebellious people lumped in with idolaters to be judged as provokers against God. (Isaiah 65:2-5; 66:17)

I Timothy 4:1-5 does not permit swine eating as some teach. It says that “*every creature is good – if received with thanksgiving – for it is sanctified by the Word of God.*” “Sanctified” means “set apart”. But, God's Word is the source which “sets apart” clean from unclean foods. Verse 3 tells us that this lesson by Paul is referring to “*meats which God hath created to be received*”. (See *Leviticus chapter 11*) Swine weren't created to be received. We cannot make pigs clean to eat by praying a “thank you”.

In Acts chapter 10 Peter has a vision of all manner of unclean foods, but the vision turns out to not be about violating the dietary laws, but in reading the *whole chapter* we learn that this was about not “*Calling any man common or unclean*”-- verse 28. Peter was confused about the meaning of the vision because he had never eaten unclean meat (v. 14), and this was eight years after Christ had been resurrected and the New Covenant had been in effect! The matter was concerning whether or not the “Gentiles” (whom Peter had consider unclean) could become Christians as well as the Judean Christians did. Gods settled the matter with a vision and showed Peter that they could indeed.

Physically, swine eating is a slow killer. This meat carries over 12 type of parasites, plus other exotic bacteria that are very resilient. Cooking is no guarantee they these microscopic vermin can be killed by the heat. “*Trichinosis (from hogs/pigs) mimics at least 50 other illnesses and diseases including dementia, epilepsy, edema, breathing difficulty, enlarged lymph glands, meningitis, brain damage, encephalitis, pneumonia,pleurisy, and nephritis.*” – Guess What Came To Dinner, A.L. Gittleman, Avery Publishing, pg.48,64. Man in his folly cannot make clean something that God has declared to be unclean. Isn't it time we obeyed God, even if the misinformed preacher tells us to do otherwise?