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Satisfied Or Not Satisfied-Which?

By the late: C. D. Cole

The Psalmist exclaims: "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" And he adds the words of my text for this message, saying, "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness" (Psalm 107:8,9).

The Book of Ecclesiastes is the divine record of man's search for satisfaction, and the confession that it cannot be found in the things of earth. Three times the word "Satisfied" comes before us in this book, and each time with the word "Not." "All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing" (Ecc. 1:8); "...neither is his eye satisfied with riches" (4:8); "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity" (5:10).

Nearly twenty times in the Bible we find such words as "not satisfied," and "never satisfied." These words tell a sad but true tale. The people of this world are ever seeking something new, because the things of earth cannot satisfy the longing soul. Favorite books are called "novels"—something new.

Are you satisfied? If not, why not? Are you continually seeking soul satisfaction or peace of mind? Then why do you not get it? Why are there so few people who are satisfied? Is it not because they try to find soul satisfaction in the things of earth?

God is the only One who can satisfy the human soul. The only hope of lasting satisfaction is in a return to God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Man is not capable of self-satisfaction. There is no fountain within man from which he can draw water to satisfy the soul. Neither is there satisfaction in things. One man may have everything without God and be dissatisfied, while another may have God, with little of this world's goods, and be satisfied. This was the secret of the joy of Christ who had not where to lay His head. This was the explanation of Paul's contentment in the midst of poverty and persecution. Writing from a Roman prison, he said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11). And writing to Timothy from the same prison, he said, "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Tim. 6:6). This does not forbid one's trying to better his condition; what it forbids is a spirit of complaining and murmuring if one's condition is not improved. We should be satisfied with what we have materially, but not with what we are spiritually. We should be growing in grace continually. God is the only One who can satisfy the longing soul, and fill the hungry soul with goodness.

When Adam and Eve broke with God, they became conscious that something was wrong with them. They had an evil conscience and did not want to face God; they were afraid of Him. Realizing they would have to meet Him, they sought to repair the damage sin had done by

CHRIST JESUS IS THE ONE AND ONLY MEDIUM OF SATISFACTION

making fig-leaf aprons. They would make their own clothes in which to meet Him. They sought satisfaction in the work of their own hands. But when God came, they hid from Him; they realized they were not prepared to meet Him in their "home-made" clothes. God satisfied them with clothes made from the skins of animals. My lost man, you may think you can meet God in the robe of your own righteousness, but you will change your mind when the day of judgment comes. Oh, that you would change it right now and trust Jesus Christ Who has prepared a robe of righteousness by His obedience unto death, even the death of the cross.

When the prodigal left home for the far country and was cast upon his own resources, he was not self-sufficient. He sought satisfaction in things of earth, but all in vain. He resorted to various expedients, but to no satisfaction. He sought help from man, but no man gave unto him. It was not until he reached the bottom—the hog pen—that he said, "I will arise and go to my father." His experience was like that of every man in conversion.

1. The prodigal grieved over a wasted life. He had spent his portion in riotous living. My lost friend, is that not what you have done with your talents and possessions? You have not honoured God with them, have you?

2. The prodigal learned that he could not provide for himself. He tried to but failed. He stayed in the far country as long as he could. He tried to make his own way, but every step took him deeper into misery and shame. And my dear man, have you done any better in trying to satisfy an accusing conscience and a longing soul by your own efforts?

3. The prodigal had a change of mind. He came to himself. He looked at everything in a different light. He repented of his sins. He realized that he could not take care of himself, and that he was dependent upon his father. He felt that he would be happier as a slave in his father's house than to have the freedom of the world. The father satisfied him with the best robe and fatted calf, and with a ring for his finger and shoes for his feet.

4. The prodigal was humbled by his experience. He made no demands when he returned to the father. He claimed no merit. He asked for no portion. He simply and humbly said, "I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." And this is the spirit of all who are truly saved. Their ego has been deflated and they think of themselves only as sinners saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

God satisfies by giving His Son to be our Saviour. With Christ, God freely gives us all things necessary to salvation.

In Christ, we have freedom from condemnation. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

In Christ, we have rest from the toil of trying to save ourselves. In Matt. 11:28, Christ says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

In Christ, we have peace with God. Colossians 1:20 says that Christ "made peace through the blood of His cross."

In Christ, we have the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

In Christ, we have redemption and forgiveness. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

In Christ, we have mercy from God. Christ is God's Mercy-seat. No sinner need expect mercy from God who rejects Jesus Christ.

There is no eternal need that is not supplied in Jesus Christ.

"By Christ redeemed;
In Christ restored,
Christ, of all my hopes the ground,
Christ, the spring of all my joy."

FAITH IS THE ONE AND ONLY WAY OF SATISFACTION

"By grace are ye saved through faith." Faith means to be satisfied with Christ as Lord and Saviour. Faith relies upon what God says about His Son. And God has gone on record, that eternal life is in His Son. Refusal to trust Jesus Christ is to make God a liar. We must not confound faith with feelings. Mr. Moody could not get a man to see the way of salvation until he asked, "What was it that saved Noah, his feelings or the ark?" The man replied, "I see it now; it was the ark and not his feelings." Christ is the Ark of safety from the billows of divine judgment. Trust Him and you are safe. Trust anything or everything else, and you remain lost.

Now, let me give you three ways of testing the reality of your faith:

1. If you have faith in Christ Jesus, you are satisfied with the price he paid on the cross

for your salvation. You will not try to add anything to what He paid. You will want to work, but not as payment or part payment for salvation. You will believe that Jesus paid it all.

2. If you have saving faith in Christ, you will not be a boaster. Faith excludes boasting. Faith does not talk of self but of Christ. Those who came to the great supper of Luke 14:16-24, were poor and needy. All others sought satisfaction in things. One was occupied with his farm, another with his oxen, and another with his wife. It is the poor and needy who come to the gospel supper.

3. If you have saving faith in Jesus Christ, you will also love Him; and this will cause you to want to serve Him. Paul says that faith works by love. The first thing Saul of Tarsus said after being convinced that Jesus was the Lord, was "What wilt thou have me to do?" He was told to be baptized and he obeyed without hesitation. Obedience is the fruit and also the test of faith and love. If Christ's commandments mean nothing to you, it is because you neither trust nor love Him.

To any lost person who reads this, won't you put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? And if you trust Him, won't you obey Him in baptism and in service?



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