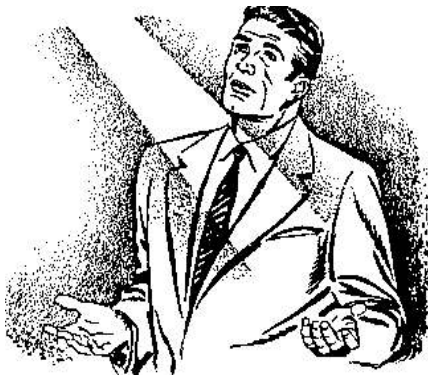


Is Your Soul Satisfied?



T. G. Myers

The following is the first verse and chorus of an old hymn:

*All this world, it's wealth and honor,
Cannot sate the human breast;
But, when filled with God, our Father,
Every want is fully blest.*

*My soul is satisfied,
My soul is satisfied;
I am complete in Jesus' love,
And my soul is satisfied.*

Dear friend, is your soul satisfied? Do not answer this question hastily or casually. Many might be prompted to answer yes to this question when what they really mean is, "I am satisfied with my job, or my home, or my husband or wife, or the religion I am affiliated with."

You will note, I did not ask if you were satisfied with your job, home, wife, religion, etc. I asked, "Is your *soul* satisfied?" How many, in this affluent age, mistake material abundance as an approval from God on their lives. So, when I ask, "Is your *soul* satisfied?" I am really asking, "Is God's approval upon you? Can you say with certainty, sincerity, and honesty, 'I am His, and He is mine'?"

Again, be careful in your answer, for I am not talking about religious affiliation, charitable works, good deeds, a pleasant disposition or personality. You may have all these and not be Christ's. You might now be asking, "Then, what constitutes soul satisfaction?" Well, we can only say, in truth, that our soul is satisfied when sin is removed from our lives. Sin is a terrible thing.

Psalm 7:11 tells us, "God is angry with the wicked every day." The most awful thing about sin is not the broken homes, wasted lives, shame, humiliation, degradation, etc., but the fact that sin separates man from God. God desires to be in close relationship with man but cannot because of the separation sin has brought. Isaiah 59:2 states, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." The only way to restore man to fellowship with God is by removing sin but man cannot remove his own sin. No sacrifices or works will suffice. Isaiah 64:6 says, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." As God's moral law is infinite, so the transgression against that moral law is infinite. The only way to remove the guilt of sin was by satisfying divine justice and this is what Jesus did on the Cross for you and me.

Hebrews 9:26 says, "But now once in the end of the world [A.D. 33] hath he [Christ] appeared to *put away* sin by the sacrifice of himself." Note that it says, "*put away sin*." Thank God, Christ not only takes away the guilt of sin but actually takes away the sin itself. This is an important point. There can be no *soul* satisfaction as long as sin remains in our life. Sin brings guilt and guilt always has condemnation. Isaiah 57:20-21 tells us: "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it *cannot rest*, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is *no peace*, saith my God, to the wicked." You may say, "Well now, that is not I. That is talking about wicked people and I'm not wicked."

My friend, in the language of the Bible, a wicked individual is simply a sinner. Man, in his ignorance, has tended to rate sin; that is, to catalog sins as "big" sins and "little" sins. With God, sin is simply sin. There is no big sin or little sin. God's Word tells us: "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), and "The soul that sinneth it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). In the eyes of God, the man who tells a "little white lie" is just as lost and just as guilty as the man who robbed a bank and murdered the bank teller. One might suffer greater consequences than the other, but if neither repents and is saved, both will go to the same hell.

Again, you might say, "But I don't feel as if I'm so bad or have done much that is wrong. I'm no worse than a lot of people." This may be true but remember, a lot of people are going to hell. Matthew 7:13 says, "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." In the first place we cannot measure ourselves according to what we think is right or wrong but we must measure by God's Word. In the second place, it is not a matter of what you *feel*, but what you *are*.

Paul said in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now *no condemnation* to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." In John 3:18-21 Jesus showed us that condemnation is rejection of Him and that this rejection is characterized by staying in darkness (sin) and not coming to the light (righteousness).

It is not the beer one drinks, cigarettes one smokes, filthy language one uses, or worldly pursuits that bring us into condemnation but our rejection of Christ. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

You may say, "Well, I don't feel condemned." My friend, condemnation is not a feeling, it is a state of being. If you are living in sin you are already condemned, whether you feel anything or not. Some men can so harden their conscience that they can commit the most vile and ungodly acts and feel no remorse or shame; yet they are positively under condemnation for no one can commit such deeds and have God's approval.

What we are feeling, when we feel remorse or shame for sin, is *conviction* (which is an awakening, arousal and realization of the awful peril sin puts us into) and here is where many fail to find peace with Christ although they claim an experience with Him. They have never had saving conviction of sin. They have simply "joined church" or made a "decision" for Christ and remain yet in their sins. Condemnation leaves the soul bound and in a state of unrest. Witness, if you will, the testimony of Adam when God asked him why he hid himself. Adam's answer was, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10). Adam only committed *one* sin. Do you think yourself less under condemnation with your *many* sins? I would to God we could get people to at least the same position Adam was in when he heard God's voice and was afraid. God tries to talk to sinners and instead of having some old fashioned godly fear, they get haughty and stiff-necked and rebellious.

Can you now begin to better understand *soul satisfaction*? Remove sin, and the soul will have peace.

The first requisite is godly sorrow and conviction for sin. Second Corinthians 7:10 states, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." You may ask, "What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?" Godly sorrow is when you are sorry for your sins against God and sorry to the point that you never want to do them again. This sorrow works repentance. Repentance to God is an abhorring of and turning away from sin; not just sinful deeds but sin itself. Many make the mistake of trying to quit sin a little bit at a time by getting rid of this or that habit as they go along. God wants us to turn from all sin completely. We read in Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way [the downward way of sin], and the unrighteous man his thoughts [all our preconceived ideas and unscriptural theories]; and let him return unto the LORD [Christ], and he [Christ] will have mercy upon him [the sinner]; and to our God [Jesus will intercede and pray to God in our behalf], for he [God the Father] will [for Jesus' sake] abundantly pardon."

Worldly sorrow is when one is sorry they have been caught in their sins. Like the felon who trembles before the judge and promises with tears to reform but when let go immediately returns to his crimes. Another form of worldly sorrow is when someone sees that he must quit some things for the sake of his home, health, or job and through his own will power reforms himself. Moral reformation always works spiritual death for it denies the atonement of Christ as our only means of salvation.

At this point, if you still feel no conviction or sorrow for sin, then my advice is for you to get on your knees and pray God to send conviction upon your soul.

Finally, when you know you have been obedient to all God requires of you, believe God's promise to forgive and cleanse you and to form Christ into your heart (Galatians 4:19). First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he [God] is *faithful* and *just* to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from *all* unrighteousness." The "if" is on our part; *if we* have faithfully confessed and turned from sin, God has positively promised to not only forgive but to cleanse. A lot of modern-day preachers who hold to the sin-more-or-less-every-day theory, do a lot of stressing on the forgiveness part but not too much on the cleansing part. If God cleanses you from sin, my friend, you are clean. That means clean from sin, and if you hold to the same faith and maintain the same attitude you had when Christ saved you, by the grace of God, you can continue to live free from sin. Remember that when you were living in sin you sinned as a matter of course. In Ephesians 2:2 Paul said that "ye walked according to the course of this world." It was your nature to sin because you were "by *nature* a child of wrath," and had a "disobedient spirit" (Ephesians 2:2-3). However, now that you are saved, you have become a "partaker of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4) and have a new and obedient spirit. In order to commit sin, it must be premeditated. That is, there must first be a temptation, then a yielding to that temptation in direct disobedience to what you know is right. You were saved by being obedient and you are kept by continuing in obedience. Colossians 2:6 tells us, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."

A final word of caution: Do not go into this haphazardly and carelessly or you will never receive what you need. Stay before God in prayer, ask Him to show you to yourself as He sees you and be willing to do whatever He leads you to do. Be willing to make all things right between you and your fellow man. Return anything you

may have falsely obtained and live clean from now on. Do not rise up from your knees until you are satisfied that God is satisfied with you. Be careful to not seek nor ask anything from God but what His Word promises. Seek no ecstatic emotions or feelings but rather accept and receive by faith. Faith is when you know you have done all that God requires and can simply believe the work is done just because God says so. God loves to have us trust Him as children trust their parents. Psalms 103:13 says, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him."

In closing, I want to say this little tract is written to honest-hearted men and women who have a sincere desire to be pure and holy and live their lives completely for Jesus. It was not written to be argumentative or to "prove" a point, but rather to help those who truly want to have soul peace. There is something about truth that finds a response in the hearts of those who sincerely want to forsake the life of sin and live a life of service to Jesus, for we are saved for service.

Yield unto Him, and you will find that you, too, can sing from the heart, "My soul is satisfied!"

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