

THE SEARCH FOR SATISFACTION: Is God Enough?

'He is well paid that is well satisfied.' William Shakespeare, Henry VI

The search for satisfaction, (peace, contentment, freedom from anxiety) fills the pages of Scripture. It began in the Garden when Adam and Eve looked away from God in their search for fullness – and so the journey continues.

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?' Genesis 3.5-9

Job 1.8-11; 2.2-4, 10; 13.15; 19.25-26; 42.1-6

*When I tried to understand all this,
it was oppressive to me
till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny. Psalm 73.16-17*

Ecclesiastes 2.1-11

²⁴ A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment. Ecclesiastes 2.24-26

*'Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.'* Isaiah 55.1-13

Habakkuk 2.2-5, 18-3.2, 16-19

Matthew 6.25-34; 11.28-30

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.4-19