

TITLE: SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

TEXT: 1 TIM 6:6; PHIL 4:10-13

INTRO: “Satisfaction guaranteed” is often promised but rarely delivered. How many times has someone made this promise regarding a product or service, but when challenged, always had excuses & ‘fine print’ to excuse him from making good? One reason for this is because of the dissatisfied nature of folks today. We want it all, and what we have is never enough! This is one of the curses of living in such a technologically advanced world. Nothing should ever break, and I should never be dissatisfied.

I. DISSATISFACTION:

- A. Adam & Eve (**Gen 3**). The garden was given to them; they didn’t earn it. They didn’t have to work for the food, & still they had access to every tree *but one*. But they allowed Satan to convince them it wasn’t enough – that they should be equal with God.
- B. Tower of Babel (**Gen 11**). The people weren’t satisfied with the whole earth (**Gen 9:1** - replenish the earth)!
- C. One of the biggest pictures of dissatisfaction was that of the Israelites in the wilderness:
 1. God through multiple miracles delivered them out of Egypt, but they were not satisfied!
 2. God parted the Red Sea, allowing them to cross but not the Egyptians. They immediately began murmuring!
 3. God gave them manna in the wilderness (**Ex 16**), but they were not satisfied with it (**Num 11**).
 4. God ruled them as the One & Only God, but this was never satisfactory, and they continuously turned to other gods.
- D. God ruled the Israelites, as His chosen nation, through judges. But they were dissatisfied and demanded a king (**1 Sam 8:5**).
- E. David was given all he needed and then some, but was not satisfied and stole Bathsheba from Uriah (**2 Sam 11-12**).
- F. Naaman (**2 Kings 5**) was dissatisfied with Elisha’s cure for his leprosy (but at least he changed his mind)!
- G. The new covenant was given in Christ’s blood, bringing forgiveness of sin. But the Jews weren’t satisfied & returned to Judaism.
- H. In the Bible God has given us all truth, but so few today are satisfied, searching for truth in any place **but** the Bible.
- I. Religious leaders since the first century have been dissatisfied with the idea of all-sufficiency in the Bible, writing their own manuals and creed books, which are not from God. Why aren’t we satisfied with the simplicity that is in Christ (**2 Cor 11:3**)?

II. CONTENTMENT:

- A. What does it mean for us to be content? We need to be satisfied with spiritual pursuits, not physical.
- B. **1 John 2:15**–“*Love not the world, neither the things in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*” **Jam 4:4**–*Friendship with the world is enmity (hostility, hatred) with God!* This is about accepting and being part of those things that are against God. It’s a warning against making the world and its “treasures” your priority.
- C. **1 Tim 6:6-8**–“*But godliness with contentment (self-satisfaction, sufficiency, a contented mind) is great gain...*”
 1. (v. 6) True gain results from being godly AND being content with being godly! Is being like God enough for us? Christians should be satisfied, sufficient, content knowing that we are living like God wants us to. We need nothing else!
 2. (v. 7) “we can carry nothing out” – “You can’t take it with you!”
 - a. **Job 1:21** – “*Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*”
 - b. **Gen 3:19** – “*For dust thou art, & unto dust shall thou return.*”
 3. (v. 8) Be content w/food & clothing. Don’t worry about these things (**Mt 6:25**–“*Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on....consider the lilies...*”). God will take care of you.
- D. **Phil 4:10-13** – Example of Paul’s contentment
 1. (v. 11) *I have learned to be content in whatever state I am.* Paul is grateful for what they have done, but is able to get along without it. But notice that Paul had to **learn** this (so why should you and I be any different?). Contentment doesn’t usually come naturally (or easily). Like anything, it takes work.
 2. (v. 12) *I know how to be abased (humbled, brought low), and how to abound (be in excess).* Remember that he’s writing from prison. Things were bad, but could’ve easily been worse (he’s only under *house* arrest). Paul knew how to be content regardless of the extremity of the situation. How is he able to have this attitude? First, he recognized the dangers of either extreme. **Prov 30:8-9**–“*give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.*”
 3. (v. 13) Second, Paul knew the source of his strength. *I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.* We may not be comforted by Christ *directly* the way Paul was, but we are comforted by **1**) reading His word, **2**) by His intercession for us w/God in prayer, **3**) through our trust in His promise that He would always be w/us, and **4**) through our hope of Heaven.
 4. And so like Paul, we can be content in whatever situation we’re in. **2:14**–“*Do all things without murmurings & disputings.*”
- E. Recognize the source of our provisions:
 1. **Phil 4:19** – “*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*”
 2. **2 Cor 9:8**–“*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all **sufficiency** (satisfaction, contentment) in all things, may abound to every good work.*”
- F. This contentment is not to be confused with spiritual contentment. We should never remain where we are spiritually (**2 Pet 3:18**).

CONCLUSION: You’ll never have so much that you couldn’t have more (there’s always more money, better clothes, bigger house, etc.). But things will also never get so bad that they couldn’t get worse! So where are you on the road between these two extremes? Learn to be content there. *If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, would you have any regrets? Would you wish you had made more money, got to see the Eiffel Tower, or go to Hawaii, etc.? Or would you wish you had spent more time preparing for the next life? Would you wish you’d talked to more people about Jesus? If you want “satisfaction guaranteed,” focus your efforts on these things!