

BEING SATISFIED WITH GOOD THINGS

(Sermon Summary)

Reading: Psalm 65.

Psalm 65 is a Psalm full of encouraging things. We have seen some darker themes in Psalm 64. Here it speaks of abundance and a plentiful supply in our relationship with God. In verse 4 it talks of satisfaction in the goodness of the Lord, of there being a generous provision where none will lack or suffer hunger. In verses 9-10 we hear of the earth being enriched with an abundance of everything. The idea of fullness continues in verses 11-13 where it talks of the year being crowned with goodness with thoughts of beauty and fertility again being to the fore. Things 'drip', 'are clothed' and 'are covered' with the result being that creation rejoices and sings.

The goodness that the Lord exhibits and builds into the natural and the spiritual world includes 'all flesh' (v2). It reaches to 'the ends of the earth' (v5). Praise to God is therefore very appropriate (v1).

At the end of verse 4, David makes a declaration that is itself an expectation of what lies ahead, founded upon the reality of his ongoing walk with the Lord. He proclaims that he will be satisfied with the abundant provision of the Lord's house. There is plenty to be found in the Lord's house that will bring lasting satisfaction to his soul. So we must ask ourselves whether we are able to speak about the things of God in the same way. Are we satisfied with the goodness of the Lord's house? Have we come to appreciate all that there is there for the believer?

1. Spiritual goodness.

This is the greatest goodness that we will ever receive. It is the most beneficial of experiences, for it reaches to the depths of the soul, the very core of our being and existence. For if it is well with the soul, all else will follow in its place. When we read what great commentators have written on this verse, their thoughts turn to the entire range of benefits that come to the soul that is in fellowship with God. For the New Covenant believer, all these good things come to us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Mediator of all good things that come to us from heaven. We are blessed because in Christ we are chosen to draw near to the Lord. Then from that position there are a host of blessings and spiritual benefits that accrue to us (John 1:16-17; Ephesians 5:14; and 1 Peter 2:9-10).

The basis for us enjoying these good things is that the Lord has obtained atonement for us (v3). It was still future for David but we now can see the realisation of the Lord's plan to provide full atonement for His people through the blood of His Son (Romans 3:23-25). This is very good news and gives us spiritual goodness that more than offsets our iniquities in the sight of God. Through Him have come to the believer such spiritual goods as pardon, imputed righteousness, spiritual power and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are each individually caused to come near to the Lord when the Lord draws near to us through the preaching of the word, or our reading of the Bible, for example. These spiritual goods are all to be found in the Lord's house where the Bible is honoured, preached and believed, and where there is true spiritual worship offered to the Lord, and then sustained by credible Christian living.

All is done in the context of believing that there is a continuing experience of the Lord's goodness in to eternity. This is all a cause of joy and peace, the fruits of a soul satisfied with the goodness of the Lord's house.

2. The goodness of the Lord's house.

The church is made up of living stones, people who confess the truth, preach it, honour it at the Communion Table. Here is the place where we raise our voices and pray to the true God together.

The goodness that is spoken here is knowing the Lord Himself. It is that we are related to the Lord Himself and know Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is our everything (Psalm 73:25-26), and has chosen us in eternity, establishing a relationship with us before we were even born. He took hold of us then and has kept hold of us ever since. In this relationship, He is ever manifesting Himself to us and showing us more and more of His goodness. He expresses His own character of goodness to us in our day-to-day living. We are able to pray (v2) and He hears and answers us (v5). As we pray, mighty things are accomplished. Kingdoms stand or fall. The Lord will issue censures and rebukes.

In this relationship, we continue to enjoy the spiritual good of being sanctified. It is a powerful work that works into the very depths of our being to change us. This work is always improving our motives, our tastes and our appreciation of spiritual things. It is a thorough and relentless work and out of it we make vows to the Lord (v1). There is guidance as a vital part of what the Lord supplies, increasing our trust in Him as He leads us in life. His house is always very full. There is never any shortage or danger that we will exhaust the supply. We should not be hesitant or unbelieving but should ask for all that we need.

3. So are you satisfied?

Given all that we believe to be true, we have to ask ourselves, 'Are we satisfied? Or are we missing out on something?'

Some of the signs that we are missing out on the goodness of what the Lord intends that we should have include fear, unbelief, a lack of prayer, or the possession of un-confessed sin and guilt. If these things are still too dominant in us, we will be stopped from making spiritual progress, having greater assurance, or finding fulfillment. We must be ready to repent, asking to be able to see more of our true selves that we might take stock and respond thoroughly by confessing those things, and should be fully resolved to act on all that we find out about ourselves and need to change.

We should believe that there is so much more for us to know. 'Tis an ocean vast of blessing.' We should have faith in the promises of God and be more ready to give thanks for all that the Lord has already taught us about Himself, not allowing past disappointments to get the better of us.

Then, in time, as we are more confident in what good things the Lord will supply, we will not be so easily shaken or so doubtful so often. We will feel more secure as we go about this world because of the security of what we have in the Lord.