

SERMON FOCUS: I should not be satisfied with the spiritual status quo.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will see the value in pursuing Christ above all other goals.

BACKGROUND: Paul wrote this letter to the church at Philippi while he was in prison in Rome. He had planted this church on his second missionary journey. This was a church that loved Paul and was generous in giving to the poor of the church in Jerusalem. They had even sent Epaphroditus to minister to him in prison, but he had gotten sick and nearly died, so Paul sent him back, presumably with this letter.

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 3:12-4:1

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever told yourself, "I'll be happy when..." only to find out when you get there that whatever you were after did not make you happy. Like the goalpost for happiness has moved? It's easy for us to feel like "life will be great when..." Today, we are going to discuss dissatisfaction and what role it has in our lives.

MESSAGE:

1. WHAT I AM DISSATISFIED WITH, I FOCUS ON

- a. If I'm driving down a perfectly smooth road and hit the one pothole, what am I focused on?
- b. If I'm at home and hate the paint on the walls, guess what I'm focused on?
- c. We are prone to focus on the things that make us feel unsatisfied. These are the things that we work to improve. And there is nothing inherently wrong with wanting to improve, HOWEVER...

2. WE ARE CONTINUALLY BEING TOLD TO BE DISSATISFIED

- a. If you watch TV or scroll through social media, advertisers are targeting you.
- b. Their job is to convince you that you are unhappy with something in your life, then sell you the solution.
- c. "Your hair doesn't look this beautiful--but with this shampoo and conditioner it will."
- d. "Your skin looks old--buy this cream to put on it."
- e. "Your clothes are old--come buy new ones so you can dance like these models."
- f. "You don't like your car--let us sell you a new one."
- g. "You're overweight--come join this gym."
- h. "You're overweight--let us sell you a shot to make you lose weight."
- i. If you focus on what is being advertised to you, you become completely unsatisfied with everything in your life. WHICH IS JUST WHAT SATAN WANTS

3. SATAN WANTS US TO BE MATERIALLY HUNGRY AND SPIRITUALLY SATISFIED

- a. Before you think, "Surely that can't be right," let me explain.
- b. If God has provided everything in your life, who is the only one who would tell you to not be satisfied with that?
- c. Who is the only one who would tell you that God is withholding good things from you.
 - i. Eve in the garden.
 - ii. The sexual revolution
- d. Here's the other part of that. Satan does want you to be spiritually satisfied--because he wants you to avoid seeking Christ's holiness.
 - i. "You are great the way you are"
 - ii. "You're only human"
 - iii. "None of this is really *your* fault."
 - iv. If we buy into these lies, we do not seek spiritual growth. Particularly if we are focused on all the material things we don't have.
- e. Constantly thinking that I am good enough means that I do not need to seek to be like Christ. If I am enough on my own, then I am my own savior. Then, instead of seeking what satisfies God, I only have to seek what satisfies me. This is no way to live.

4. WE SHOULD BE MATERIALLY SATISFIED AND SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY

- a. In this same letter to Philippi (4:11-13): **"I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. I know both how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content--whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me."**
- b. Compare Apostle Paul's statement on material things with this: REREAD 3:12-4:1
- c. Note that while Paul is satisfied materially, he is not fully satisfied in his walk with Christ. He knows he can do better. He has not reached his goal yet. And he says that all who are mature in Christ should think this way.
- d. We, too, are to forget what is behind and reach forward to what is ahead, moving forward with Christ, not getting caught in the world's materialism and self-justification. We should hunger for Christ. And we should teach others to do the same.

5. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).

- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
- b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
- c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

INVITATION HYMN # 320 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus