



SATISFIED

Pastor Alan Wright

January 15, 2012

Part 1

Lord, we bring glory, honor and praise to You, and we thank You for all that You have done for us in Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Our theme for the next quarter is about being satisfied in Jesus, and so this morning we have had some fun with a 1965 video of Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones performing their hit song, *Satisfaction*. Although Mick Jagger may have sold a few records over the years prancing around the stage singing, *I can't get no satisfaction, cause I try, and I try, and I try, and I try*, I think the Rolling Stones had it all wrong. So we wrote our own improved lyrics:

*I CAN get FULL satisfaction.
I can get full satisfaction.
He's alive, He's alive, He's alive, He's alive!
I can get full satisfaction!*

*When I'm driving in my car
And that man comes on the radio,
The words that he keeps saying
About some grace-filled transformation
It's Sharing the Light with Pastor Alan Wright!*

*I can get full,
Full, full, full
Hey, hey, hey,
That's what I say,
I can get full
I can get full
Satisfaction
Satisfaction.*

Are you ready for some good news?

Though in the world by religious efforts you might try and try and try and try, and find no satisfaction, there is a way in which your soul may be truly satisfied, simply by seeing Jesus!

Father we ask that You would open up the eyes of our hearts and that You would let us see wondrous things from your Word; that You would cause us, Father, to have our attention so fully fixed upon the Author and the Finisher of our faith that we would be able to truly forget about our obsessions with ourselves and instead be gloriously consumed with a vision of Jesus; and that Your Word, that is timeless, and true, and powerful and imperishable, would come and be planted into our very own hearts. Ready us to receive, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

OUR VERSE FOR THIS NEW YEAR is taken from Psalm 17:15, and it is this scripture which we have prayed over one another during our annual blessing service that I want to speak to you about today.

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be satisfied beholding Your likeness.

*Though in the world
by religious efforts
you might try and try and try and try,
and find no satisfaction,
there is a way in which your soul may be truly satisfied,
simply by seeing Jesus!*

The Rolling Stones touched something in the soul of a generation with their song, which became their biggest hit and a turning point for the band destined for unbelievable fame. And when that occurs with any song, or any event, it captures my interest. How could a single song generate such a sensation? Was it the simple rock guitar riff? Was it the rising popularity of Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones? Or could it be that it touched the frustration that so many people identify with because it linked the *I tried, I tried, I tried, and I tried* with *I can't get no satisfaction*? If the song had just said, *I can't get no satisfaction*, it would not have worked, because your first question would be,

Well, have you tried?

Yes.

Maybe you haven't tried hard enough.

No, I have tried, and I've tried, and I've tried.

There is a link between the trying and the not getting that is altogether more frustrating, and I want to talk to you about that.

RELIGIOUS EFFORT

Frustration & Dissatisfaction

Frustration and dissatisfaction are often linked to religious effort.

Jefferson Bethke, a young online evangelist, is hoping to epitomize the message that Jesus does not equal *religion* in a YouTube video that has attracted ten million views and incited hundreds of comments on the true meaning of faith. The popular and apparently controversial video, titled *Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus*, was uploaded on January 10th and has since become YouTube's most-watched video. In it, Bethke recites a poem that showcases what he says was his journey to discover the truth

about the difference between Jesus and false religion. The poet asks,

What if I told you Jesus came to abolish religion?

If religion is so great,

Why has it started so many wars?

Why does it build huge churches,

But fails to feed the poor? ...

The problem with religion

Is it never gets to the core,

It's just behavior modification

Like a long list of chores.

Like let's dress up the outside,

Make it look nice and neat. ...

Church is not a museum for good people;

It's a hospital for the broken,

Which means I don't have to hide my failure;

I don't have to hide my sin,

Because it doesn't depend on me.

It depends on Him.

Religion says 'slave,'

Jesus says 'son,'

Religion puts you in bondage,

While Jesus sets you free.

Religion makes you blind,

But Jesus makes you see.

Bethke, a self-described *messed up dude addicted to grace*, claims that *religion* is man's search for God, but Christianity is God's search for man, and this is why salvation is free for the taking; that forgiveness is his, not based on his own effort, but rather on Christ's obedience alone.

He then finishes his poem by saying:

So for religion, no, I hate it,

In fact, I literally resent it.

Because when Jesus said: 'It is finished,'

*I believe He meant it.*¹

Why would ten million people be attracted to this video? It is a good poem, but the real reason is that it is touching something deep in the soul of a generation, of a nation, that is dissatisfied.

When people think of Christianity as a religion, they tend to assign to Christianity religious characteristics. They think it is judgmental, it is condemning, and it is filled with hypocrites who think they are better than everyone else. And for that reason they are rejecting it in droves. So when ten million people in three days view a video that says, *I hate everything about religion, but I love Jesus*, whether or not they agree with the message of the video, whether they have experienced it by choice or it has been imposed upon them, it clearly points to a massive frustration with religious effort, because nothing is satisfying about it.

We are in a season in the body of Christ globally in which there is a move of God that is very simply a recovery of the purity and the simplicity of the Gospel, an announcement, not about what you ought to do, but about what Jesus has already done. And now, more than at any other point in my life, I believe that the Gospel, the Good News announcement of Jesus Christ, is the power of God unto salvation.² It has power for your wholeness, power for your deliverance and power for every important transformational event in your life.

Today's beautiful, prophetic scripture, Psalm 17:15, is speaking of Jesus before Jesus has come, announcing that,

As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be satisfied just seeing Your likeness, and we will see today why a vision of Jesus satisfies, while religious efforts do not.

I Try and I Try and I Try and I Try

Increased Frustration

Have you ever noticed that dissatisfaction and frustration increase in proportion to how much you have tried and tried and tried and tried? There are a lot of frustrations in our lives, but the most

¹ Jefferson Bethke, *Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus*. Accessed 1-19-2012 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0p6lVdtGKI>.

² Romans 1:16

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in the body of Christ globally
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frustrating seem to occur when we try and try and try, but without any satisfaction.

YEARS AGO, before unlimited cell phone minutes, telephone service via Internet was introduced. I thought it was a cool technology and a great answer to high long distance charges, so I decided I would go with a company that offered a cheaper service than a major brand carrier – only nineteen bucks for all my telephone service and unlimited long distance.

After signing up for the service, I tried, and I tried, and I tried to get it to work – nobody ever tried harder – but nothing worked. I went to the website and tried all the troubleshooting guidelines, but none of them worked. I went through everything I could see in writing. Nothing would work.

By this point, I had already invested six to ten hours investigating the technology and the options, signing up for it, going through all the installation instructions and all the troubleshooting guidelines, and I hadn't even made a phone call yet. When I did, the technicians led me through everything that could be checked, everything that could be changed, everything that could be done. I tried and tried and it did not work. In fact, it never did work, and I was just so frustrated.

Have you ever noticed that the more you have poured yourself into something like that, the more desperate you are to make it work? You feel you've put so much into it that you have to get something out of it. You know you should have cut your losses earlier, but you didn't. Now you're in.

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the Good News announcement
of Jesus Christ,
is the power of God unto salvation.
It has power for your wholeness,
power for your deliverance
and power for every
important transformational event
in your life.*

Trying and trying and trying something that doesn't satisfy only increases your frustration. This is the way people feel about religion. If someone has the notion that Christianity is about trying and trying and trying to be a good Christian, it is not only frustrating for them to continue trying, but the more they try, the more frustrated they feel. They try and try and try to be patient, and when they're not patient, the more frustrated they are that they aren't patient.

Increased Dissatisfaction

In the same way, the more you've invested in something, the more dissatisfied you are when it doesn't work.

Out of curiosity I researched this and found that since 1978 there have been thirty-seven reported deaths related to vending machines, but not as a result of electrocution or other mechanical mishaps.

These reports are about people who put their coins into a machine and did not get the drink, did not get the Mounds bar, so they began shaking the machine. Then, as the machine was shaken, it fell back on them and killed them! ³

Once I have paid for something, but don't get it, I am far angrier and more dissatisfied than if I hadn't paid for it, and I kick it.

Side point: If you treat your relationships as vending machines – *I can't believe after all I've*

³ Consumer Product Safety Commission, *Soda Vending Machine Industry Labeling Campaign Warns Of Deaths And Injuries*. Release # 96-011. November 2, 1995. Accessed 1-16-2012:
http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/PRHTM_L96/96011.html

done for you that you treat me that way – if you think that a relationship is about putting in your coins and getting back what you expect is due to you, when you don't get what you are expecting, you'll start kicking, hopefully not literally.

Dissatisfaction occurs when you try and you try and you try, and whatever you are trying seems to endlessly not satisfy. It leaves you even more dissatisfied than if you had never tried in the first place. Then, if you try something else which you think will give you a return, and it doesn't give you the return you anticipated, you are all the more frustrated and even more greatly dissatisfied than if you had never tried anything at all.

Entitlement

Religious efforts to perform create an entitlement mentality which is totally the opposite of a grace mentality. With an entitlement mentality, you believe that you have done something and therefore you are entitled to a result. Trying hard, the mentality of earning by good behavior, sets us up for frustration and dissatisfaction.

Many, many years ago my friend's brother was working as a waiter at a very fine restaurant in Atlanta. One night a patron came in. He was well-dressed and he seemed to have the appearance of a distinguished affluent gentleman. He was dining by himself and the waiter gave him impeccable service. He ensured the water glass was full; he was attentive and yet not intrusive; and it was an excellent meal.

At the end of the meal, my friend's brother saw the man rise from the table and leave the restaurant without paying his bill. He didn't even wait for the bill, and he didn't leave a tip.

The waiter was enraged. He ran out, found the man in the parking lot, physically grabbed him, and said, *How dare you just walk out of the restaurant? You didn't pay your bill and you didn't leave any tip! Now you come back in this restaurant and take care of this.*

The older gentleman shook himself off and he said, *Hold on, son. Did you not talk to the manager?*

The young man said, *No...*

And the gentleman said, *Son, I own this restaurant, and I already left you a large tip.*

We are not like God's waiter, giving Him impeccable service, doing what He wants us to do,

expecting our blessing to be like a large tip in a fine restaurant and saying to God: *But I gave You excellent service...*

God would only say to you, *Hold on, son, I own the world and all that is in it,⁴ and eyes have not seen the glory that is laid up for you.⁵*

Do not spend your life shaking your fist at the cosmos as if you have become entitled to it all.

NO SATISFACTION

Give Me More

Life is a gift, and religiosity, the religious spirit itself, wants to convince us to become distracted by the things that are NOT Christianity, the things that are NOT about Jesus. This is why Paul told the Corinthians that he was concerned that they would become deceived as the serpent deceived Eve away from the purity and the simplicity of the gospel.⁶

A vision of Jesus will never dissatisfy.

PROVERBS 30:15

¹⁵ *The leech, literally the horse leech, has two daughters: Give and Give.*

The leech is a worm-like creature that has two suckers, one at the head and one at the tail, with which it sucks blood. This is saying: *The leech has two daughters: Slurp, slurp, and they are saying, 'Give me more; Give me more; Give me more; Give me more; Give me more;' and it is never satisfied.*

The enemy of your soul wants to lead you into a life that would appear to satisfy, but it will not. Once there, you live under the illusion that it will only take more of the unsatisfactory thing to eventually bring the satisfaction which is beyond your grasp.

The proverb continues:

Three things are never satisfied; four never say, 'Enough':

¹⁶ *Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, 'Enough.'*

⁴ Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Job 41:11; Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12; 89:11; 95:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:26

⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:9

⁶ 2 Corinthians 11:3

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*Once there, you live under the illusion
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Sheol

Sheol, the place of death, Hades, is a picture of a hat which is never satisfied. The grave is never satisfied. There is a longing for life, but no life is found when you are in living death.

The barren womb

Any couple that has ever experienced this knows that one of the fiercest pains anyone can experience may be the pain of being unable to conceive biologically. If you've been through that, you know there is a uniqueness to this pain. But here in the Scriptures, it seems to grow metaphorically. It is like saying that in death there is never satisfaction, and in the barren womb, where there is no life being produced, there is no satisfaction.

In other words, where there is no real life, it is as if we have two giant suction cups, we're constantly looking for true life and the only thing we can say to the world around us is, *Give me more; give me more; give me more; give me more. I need to do more of this; I need to have more of that*, whatever it might be.

The land never satisfied with water

Another metaphor is the land that is never satisfied with water, a desert floor in a searing sun where you pour out a bottle of water and it almost evaporates before it hits the soil. It is absorbed into the dry earth, and the earth is as though it has received no water. It is not satisfied.

The fire that never says enough

What a powerful image. The fire burns a twig, burns a tree, burns another tree, burns a whole forest. It keeps burning, but is never satisfied. It has to have more and more.

*The religious spirit
will take a person who wants to be satisfied in God
and distract them by a distortion of the Gospel,
so that well-meaning people, looking for ultimate satisfaction,
become distracted by trying and trying.*

If you try to satisfy yourself with anything that is not really life, the more you try to satisfy yourself with it, the more you will crave it.

If it is for you alcohol that would appear to satisfy your longing for a sense of relief from the angst of life, it will only require you to drink more. Every alcoholic knows this. More and more. If it is cocaine, it will require more. If it is pornography or sex, it will require more and more. If it is success, if it is money, it will not satisfy, and the more you try for it to satisfy, the more you will need. None of it will ever satisfy.

Idols are all alike. They promise you satisfaction, and by the false promise they make, they lure you in to ultimate dissatisfaction.

The Religious Spirit

This is why perhaps the most prevalent spiritual opposition to Jesus of Nazareth was the religious spirit. The religious spirit will take a person who wants to be satisfied in God and distract them by a distortion of the Gospel, so that well-meaning people, looking for ultimate satisfaction, become distracted by trying and trying.

But it is not to say that the Gospel tells us to not work hard or to not try hard. The Gospel does call us to an amazing life of unbelievable sacrifice, of unbelievable surrender of our life, amazing adventures and an awesome, risky destiny. The difference is in what you are looking to in order to satisfy your life. It is when you try and you try and you try that which does not satisfy that you will be led into ultimate frustration. But when you are satisfied in Jesus, then you are released to live life with abandon and to give it your all.

SATISFIED BEHOLDING JESUS

Psalm 17:15 makes an astounding declaration: *When I awake, I'll be satisfied just by beholding Your likeness.* When you really see Jesus, who He is, what He has done and His ongoing advocacy for you, amazing transformations happen inside of you. In fact, there is nothing else that will satisfy except this vision, this relationship, this encounter with Jesus.

When we went on our delicious sabbatical a couple of summers ago, it was such a delight to witness my kids seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time. Anybody who has ever had the privilege of seeing the Grand Canyon will tell you the same thing: it is awe-inspiring. You want to just sit and stare, to take in the beauty and then to see it from different perspectives and under different angles of the sun at different times of day.

We wanted to experience the canyon somehow, and so we had planned to ride the mules. My wife said she was looking forward to that mule ride as much as anything on that entire trip, but when we were checking in, they said, *We're sorry, the mule ride that you scheduled tomorrow is not going to be able to take place.* They wouldn't tell us why, but, we were very disappointed. And we were dissatisfied.

The next day we discovered there was a road that had been closed, and that closed road was the reason that our mule ride was cancelled. So I asked one of the guards, *Why is this road closed?* (I really was asking, *Why is my mule ride cancelled?*) And he said the road was closed because [Vice President] Joe Biden was giving a speech there on the rim of the Grand Canyon.

I am sure it was an important speech, but I only cared about our mule ride. We were dissatisfied.

So we decided we were going to hike the canyons some. Well, we got down in the canyon and I started hiking up and down a bit, and I became aware of how my personal conditioning was not what it once was.

I was dissatisfied with the shape I was in.

Then it became one of the few days on that whole wonderful trip that a thunderstorm looked like it was coming, and we needed to scramble to get out of the canyon, because you don't want to be trapped down in the Grand Canyon in the middle of a thunderstorm.

I was not satisfied with my cancelled mule ride. I was not satisfied with my personal conditioning. I was not satisfied with the weather.

And our room was a little cabin. It was really small and my kids were taking up all the room. I was not satisfied with the room.

I wasn't satisfied with any of those things.

But I was satisfied with the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon was the object of my awe and it inspired exhilaration in my soul. Nobody sees the Grand Canyon and says, *Oh, I thought it was going to be bigger than that.* You can be dissatisfied with the circumstances that are part of your attempts to experience the Grand Canyon, but you CAN'T be dissatisfied with the Grand Canyon! When you come back from the Grand Canyon, if somebody asks how the trip was you could say,

Well, Joe Biden had to give a speech that nobody was listening to, my room was small, we couldn't hike the canyon for long because of a threat of a thunderstorm, and I found out I was out of shape. Or, you could say, *I don't have words for the Grand Canyon because it was glorious!*

That goes far to explain why in three days ten million people viewed the *Why I hate religion, but love Jesus* video. But when you get a vision of Jesus Christ, you cannot be dissatisfied. OH, HE IS GLORIOUS! He is loving. He is the author and the finisher of your faith. And when you see Him, NOTHING ELSE seems to matter.

All of Hell is conspiring to distract you from actually seeing Him, but that vision makes everything else satisfactory.

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WHEN WE SEE GOD

We see He is for us

When you see God, you realize that this is an invitation to quit trying, and trying and trying, for if you see God, then you see that He is at work on your behalf and in your life.⁷

When you realize that God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth,⁸ came in the person of Jesus to die for you⁹ and to become your sin;¹⁰

That He was raised from the dead and He lives forevermore at the right hand of God, where He is interceding for you;¹¹

That He chose you before the foundation of the world;¹²

That He is orchestrating and sovereign over all the events of your life, all that is good, and even the sin in your life and the evil that has been perpetrated against you; that He is working through it and orienting everything in order to bless you;¹³

If you had one little glimpse of how much God is for you, you would say, *Who could be against me?*¹⁴ And you would forget every bit of striving in your

⁷ 2 Chron 16:9; Ps 31:19; Isa 30:18; 64:4; Rom 8:28

⁸ John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:10

⁹ Matthew 20:28; Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Hebrews 2:9; 9:28; 1 Peter 3:18

¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:21

¹¹ Romans 8:34

¹² Ephesians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13;

¹³ Psalm 84:11; 138:8; Eph 1:1-12; 2:10; Phil 1:6; 2:13

¹⁴ Romans 8:31

*If you had one little glimpse
of how much God is for you,
you would say,
'Who could be against me?'
And you would forget
every bit of striving in your life,
because your own attempts
to make it all work
are piddly and minute
in comparison to the grandeur
of His grace!*

life, because your own attempts to make it all work are piddly and minute in comparison to the grandeur of His grace!

We see He is with us

If you get a vision of God, you are satisfied because you realize that He is present with you¹⁵ and His countenance is shining upon you.¹⁶ Simply put, it is like a baby who looks around the room in panic and then sees her mother's face, or like a toddler, who for a moment is lost amongst everyone's legs then sees his father's hand, smiles and is satisfied.

We see He is filling us

With Joy and Strength

Seeing God makes you satisfied because it fills you with joy, and joy makes you strong.

With Courage

Seeing God fills you with courage. He is a champion and He has accomplished what you can't accomplish, so when you start getting glimpses of what He has accomplished, it fills you with courage to do what you are called to do.

SEEING GOD – OH PRAISE BE UNTO HIS NAME! If you get a life that is fixed on Jesus and on seeing Him, if you are waking up in the morning and beholding Him, your soul is satisfied

¹⁵ Psalm 139:3, 7-10; Isa 58:11; Matt 28:18; John 14:23

¹⁶ Numbers 6:24-26

because your life is not self-absorbed. Oh, it is the glory of the Gospel to return us to God-consciousness rather than self- and sin-consciousness. Instead of waking up in the morning and asking, *Did I do it right yesterday? Am I going to be able to do it right today?* you wake up, see Jesus and realize He has done it right, then you spend your day thinking about HIM.

Religion wants to turn the attention back to YOU. Someone came to me after we introduced Psalm 17:15 about being satisfied with Jesus and he said he remembered his mother singing this hymn around the house. The hymn starts out so well, and then, well, it's not so good. It begins with:

*I am satisfied with Jesus,
He has done so much for me:
He has suffered to redeem me,
He has died to set me free.*

If you could just sing that, your soul is thrilled. That's a good announcement of the Gospel. The chorus then begins:

*I am satisfied, I am satisfied,
I am satisfied with Jesus,*

I'm sorry if this is your favorite hymn. I don't mean to trample it, but here I go, for right after it says, *I am satisfied with Jesus*, it then turns and says:

*But the question comes to me,
As I think of Calvary,
Is my Master satisfied with me?*

It continues:

*He is with me in my trials,
Best of friends of all is He;
I can always count on Jesus,
Can He always count on me?*

*I can hear the voice of Jesus,
Calling out so pleadingly,
'Go and win the lost and straying;'
Is He satisfied with me?*

*When my work on earth is ended,
And I cross the mystic sea,
Oh, that I could hear Him saying,
'I am satisfied with thee.'*¹⁷

¹⁷ Baylus Benjamin McKinney, *I Am Satisfied With Jesus*, 1926. © Copyright 1926. Renewed 1953 Broadman Press.

RATS.

BAH.

If I announce the Gospel and I say,
Here is some good news:

God so loved you and loved the whole world that in His redemptive plan He did the unimaginable. He came as a human being.¹⁸ He remained fully God, but was fully human;¹⁹

And as a full human being, He could represent humanity²⁰ and take into His actual body, into His being, all of the sin of the world and absorb into His being on the cross the righteous wrath of God.²¹

And in so doing, a great exchange has taken place wherein anyone who would trust in Him would have the right to become a child of God, a son, a daughter – not a slave, but a son, a daughter, and heir – in fact, a co-heir with Jesus Christ.²²

Jesus Christ has paid it all! Jesus Christ has accomplished it all! Lift up your eyes and look to Jesus!

But if I then I turn around and say, *And make sure that you live your life so He is satisfied with you. Are you trying hard enough,* in saying that, I just strip all the power out of the announcement. I just strip it right out from under us.

If you say, *I am satisfied with Jesus; He has done so much for me; He has suffered to redeem me; He has died to set me free. I'm satisfied, I'm satisfied, I'm satisfied with Jesus. But the question comes to me as I think of Calvary, is He satisfied with Me,* the little tainting has just spoiled the entire gospel announcement and robbed us of its power.

The religious spirit and all of hell itself conspires to rob you of the power and simplicity of the Gospel. Psalm 17:15 is making this beautiful, powerful, simple announcement that *when I wake up, I WILL be satisfied simply by beholding You.* The glory of the Gospel is not in you – *I tried; I tried; I tried to find some satisfaction.* The simplicity and power and glory of the Gospel come when you realize that God in Jesus Christ HAS ALREADY DONE IT. You don't wake up in the morning and say, *Am I going to*

*Christianity has **nothing** to do with trying to be satisfactory to God or with trying to live a satisfactory life, and **everything** to do with the announcement of what is altogether satisfying about Jesus.*

do it right? You wake up in the morning and say, THANK GOD, Jesus has already done it right!

SATISFIED

Christianity has **nothing** to do with trying to be satisfactory to God or with trying to live a satisfactory life, and **everything** to do with the announcement of what is altogether satisfying about Jesus.

When you are satisfied with a vision of Jesus, your life is free, not to take, take, take, trying to satisfy yourself, but to become a living offering unto God,²³ serving Him with gladness,²⁴ giving away your life for the cause of the Gospel,²⁵ not because you are looking for satisfaction, but because you HAVE BEEN SATISFIED in Jesus your Savior.

AND THAT IS THE GOSPEL!

Amen.

HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Father, we thank You today for the incredible glory of the Gospel, for the good news that is ours in Jesus Christ, for what You have done for us, Father.

I thank You that no demon in hell can stand against this gospel.²⁶ I thank You, Father, that there is nothing in all of this world or anything to come that can ever separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus!²⁷ You have been, Father, so good to us. Oh how we love You and bless Your holy

¹⁸ John 3:16-17; Phil 2:5-8; 1 John 4:2-3

¹⁹ John 1:1, 1:14; Colossians 2:9

²⁰ Hebrews 2:17

²¹ Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 8:3-5; Hebrews 2:14

²² John 1:12; Rom 8:14-17; Gal 4:7; 1 John 3:1

²³ Romans 12:1

²⁴ Psalm 100:2

²⁵ Mark 8:35

²⁶ Matthew 16:15-18

²⁷ Romans 8:35-39

*Let your soul be wrapped with a vision of Jesus.
Let your reading of the Scripture
be all about seeing Jesus.
Let your fellowship and interactions with others in the body of Christ
be all about seeing Jesus.
Let your ministry
be all about seeing Jesus.
Let your worship
be all about seeing Jesus.*

name! And therefore we ask, Lord, for a vision of Jesus that is ever increasing.

And God, I am praying for my flock, this precious, precious flock, pleading the blood of Jesus over this precious flock, doing warfare for the distractions that the enemy would seek to bring. He would pull us away, Lord, but I am announcing instead the glorious, free Gospel of Jesus, which is transforming us into His likeness.²⁸

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Let your soul be wrapped with a vision of Jesus.
Let your reading of the Scripture be all about seeing Jesus.
Let your fellowship and interactions with others in the body of Christ be all about seeing Jesus.
Let your ministry be all about seeing Jesus.
Let your worship be all about seeing Jesus.

May it be, oh God.

*May the Lord God bless you and keep you,
And be kind and gracious to you,
And make His face to shine upon you
And give you His peace
Today and every day, forevermore.
Amen!*

An Invitation

For anyone here today who has tried and tried and tried, let today be the day in which you simply say, *Having seen You Jesus, I receive You! I hunger for You, God.*

If you sense right now that there is an incredible power of God available right where you are, if you have any inkling of this, the reason is that when we talk about Jesus and what He has done, and we invite one another into a vision of God, it takes the attention off of ourselves, because our efforts are powerless, and it focuses the attention upon Jesus, Who has unlimited power. It is in the vision of Jesus that you realize no weapon formed against you shall prosper.²⁹ So the answer is not to try and try and try. The answer is seeing Jesus, Who tried, and succeeded, so that you can be satisfied in Him.

²⁸ John 17:22; Rom 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 John 3:2

²⁹ Isaiah 54:17



Sharing the Light Ministries

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