

# Notes for the Ekklēsia Meeting

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc www.dtminc.org Today's Date: July 6, 2014

## Satisfied!

by Dan Trygg

“Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith. <sup>5</sup> Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, so that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and he is like death, never satisfied.”

Habakkuk 2:4-5

“O God, You art my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup> Thus I have beheld You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. <sup>3</sup> Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You. <sup>4</sup> So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. <sup>5</sup> My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.”

Psalms 63:1-5

“Deliver my soul from the wicked with Your sword, <sup>14</sup> from men with Your hand, O Yahweh, ...from men of the world, whose portion is in this life; and whose belly You fill with Your treasure. They are satisfied with children, and leave their abundance to their babes... <sup>15</sup> As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.”

Psalms 17:13b-15

“He shall see the fruit of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied...”

Isaiah 53:11

**What are you looking for in life? What are you pursuing that you hope will give you satisfaction? What do you believe will fulfill you, give you joy, and a sense of completeness? People run after all kinds of things in the hope of finding something that truly satisfies. The prophet Habakkuk made some observations about common things people of his time did in pursuit of an elusive “fulfillment”.** The descriptions he wrote sound very much like our own day: **(1.) In their pursuit of material things, they “increase what is not theirs” by using credit and loans to have the *lifestyle* of the wealthy, even though they can’t *really* afford it.** It is an *illusion*, and the day will come when their creditors will rise up and *take* what they have. **(2.) Woe to those who seek to build security for themselves by “unjust gain” (illegal, abusive or predatory business practices).** By cheating others, they damage and cut off relationships, and “sin against themselves” by turning people against them. When *their* time of need comes, there will be *none* to help! To build a city (or a country) by bloodshed and violence is vain, because it will come back upon those who are perpetrators of evil. **(3.) Woe to those who make their neighbors, acquaintances and business associates drunk to take sexual advantage of them. It will bring *disgrace*, not benefit or honor.** The plot against *others* will end up working against *them*, and *they* will be used and put to shame. **(4.) Woe to those who seek after idols, false gods or deceptive religion.** This is an illusion. There is no reality or profit in those religious systems. Whether to assuage a guilty conscience, or to gain advantage and wealth from the blessing of “the gods”, this religious activity is misguided and empty. These are only four examples of what people pursue in order to find fulfillment in life. Isaiah 5 is another passage that lists similar activities that people pursue, instead of living uprightly. These lists sound like the plot of the typical soap opera on tv, or of the “war stories” people share at the workplace, as they catalogue their drinking exploits or sexual escapades. **None of these things satisfy, however. How do I know? Because people have to repeatedly go back for more, and often have to go deeper into sin, or take greater risks,** in their attempt to find an experience that will really “do it” for them. They never find it, because ***fulfillment cannot be found in such things.*** Why this relentless search? Habakkuk writes, “the soul of the proud person is not ‘right’ or ‘straight’”, ...it is *twisted and distorted*. The puffed-up, self-absorbed person cannot peacefully stay home, or be comfortable in his own skin. **He is looking outside of himself to find something to distract, medicate or exhilarate his inner self.** “He enlarges his appetite like Sheol (the grave), and is like death, *never* satisfied.”

**By contrast, David reported in Psalm 63 that he sought *God* earnestly.** He, too, experienced a thirsting and a yearning, which he recognized was really *for God*! **He felt dry and tired, at times, weary, ...but he knew by previous experience that *God* was the true answer to his needs.** He sought God in a “holy place”, a place set apart from the hustle and bustle of everyday affairs, so that he might perceive God’s strength and great splendor. **Sometimes it helps to take a few moments to refocus, to retreat from busy-ness to still our souls and recapture an awareness of God in our lives.** If we can’t *physically* go to a “set-apart place”, we can at least carve out time *in our minds* to turn our attention to God as our Source. This was a well-traveled path in David’s life. He knew what was to be found in this seeking, because he had done this many times before, and had “perceived” or “beheld” God’s greatness and availability for him in past times. **David had found God’s “loyal-love” to be better than life, itself.** For that reason, his lips *would* praise God, he *would* bless Him and worship Him with uplifted hands. **As a result of this, David testified that his soul was deeply and fully satisfied,** and he offered praises with joy.

**In Psalm 17, we have a contrast between the wicked and the righteous.** The wicked, here, are actually those who are oppressing David. **The wicked are “men of *this* world, whose portion is in *this* life.”** They may not

realize it, but *God* is the one who has given them the blessings that they enjoy. He, in His grace, fills their bellies with good things. **They are satisfied with children, and leave their abundance to their babes. This is all they are expecting, or hoping for, out of their lives,** so they are happy to have these blessings. **David, however, looks beyond these external things to look to the spiritual, eternal reality.** “As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.” **He will see God when he awakes from death. That is what he is expecting and hoping for, ...and, for David, to be in God’s presence for eternity would be the greatest satisfaction and fulfillment.** *This is not an either-or contrast,* as though you can’t have *both children and God, ...or material blessings and God...*, *but neither is it a guarantee of both, either.* **David is describing a “better-best”, kind of contrast. Everyone recognizes the value and blessing of healthy children, and of material sufficiency, but it is a far greater blessing to have God.** The wicked, or the people of *this world*, only recognize the blessing of *this life*. Thus, they are satisfied with their children, and that they can pass an inheritance on to their descendants. The righteous, those who know God, know there is a much greater blessing. **David pities those who only have eyes and a heart for things of this world. They are missing out on the greatest treasure of all, that which truly satisfies, God Himself.** Centuries later, the apostle Paul would warn of people who live only for present-day pleasures and prosperity. **There is a higher calling, a more important and enduring purpose for life. Paul chose to give up any and everything that would get in the way of obtaining the greatest prize of all, ...to know Christ,** to be found in Him, to become *like Him* and to *share in His heavenly glory* (Phil. 3:7-21). Those who are self-satisfied with earthly pleasures and riches are truly “in slippery places”. They do not perceive the reality that they could be “suddenly swept away in an instant” (Psa. 73:17-28). Their works, their wealth, their posterity will mean nothing if they are not rich toward God (Lk. 12:15-19). **David had what matters, “I will be satisfied with Your countenance when I awake.”**

God calls out to everyone who is thirsty, **“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?”** Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is *good*, and delight yourself in *abundance*.<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear and come to Me. **Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you,** ...the faithful mercies shown to David.<sup>4</sup> Behold, I have made *him* a witness to the peoples...” (Isa. 55:2-4a). Again, God warns us against wasting our time, putting our efforts into trying to obtain fulfillment in things that do not, *can not* satisfy. **The Lord offers to make a covenant with us, as He did with David.** David’s life was *meant* to be an *example, a witness*. His life testified not only of the joy and fulfillment that is to be found in God, but also that God desires to make our life a blessing to others. **God is a God of purpose. He is a designer of peoples’ potentials, a craftsman of character and calling,** to those who will obediently walk with Him. “God don’t make junk!” We are fearfully (awesomely) and wonderfully (marvelously unique and distinct) made (Psa. 139:14). **We were formed to bring Him glory** (Isa. 43:7), **...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has tailored and prepared for us to walk in** (Eph. 2:10). **As we do, we honor Him, and His heart and character are expressed and revealed through us.** We become a witness, a blessing to others. The Bible tells us that, **when we choose Christ, we become children of God, born of the Spirit** (Jn. 1:12,13). **It is not apparent, yet, what we will be, but God is working to make us like Jesus** (I Jn. 3:2; Rom. 8:29). As we learn to settle into a regular walk with God, and become satisfied with Him in us, we learn to abide in Christ. **We learn to rest in Him and walk in the Holy Spirit, and we begin to see His fruit developing in our lives. This is a process we are all to be growing in, day by day.** We are to put off our old ways, and learn to walk in the newness of Christ in us. **When Jesus returns, we will be totally transformed, and we will be like Him,** “just as He is” (I Jn. 3:2). He “will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Phil. 3:21).

**Isaiah 53 was written 700 years before Jesus was even born, yet it very clearly describes the death of Christ in the place of sinful people. God’s plan was to offer Him in our stead.** He Himself bore our griefs and sufferings, our sicknesses and pains. He was smitten by God and afflicted, because He took our punishment. He was pierced through for our transgressions, and crushed for our iniquities. The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. The death stroke for our transgressions fell upon Him. The Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief. **Clearly, Jesus freely offered Himself in our place,** to bear our sin as a sacrifice. Then, the prophecy continues, “If He would offer Himself as a guilt offering in our place, He will see His offspring.” What? **If He dies, how will He have offspring?** “And the good pleasure of Yahweh will prosper in His hand. **He will see the fruit of the travail of His soul and be satisfied;** by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities” (vss. 10,11). **We who believe, and partake of the benefits of His death and resurrection, are His offspring!** We are the “fruit of the travail of His soul”. **He will be satisfied in us, ...in our salvation, in what we do that honors Him and what we become that displays His glory.** Truly, His wonderful love *is* better than life! My lips will praise *Him!* I will bless *Him!* My soul is satisfied *in Him!*