

FINDING SATISFACTION – PART 2

Acts 17:27-28 ... “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us; for in him we live and move and have our being...”

Today we conclude our two-part series on finding satisfaction. If you missed part 1, you might want to read that before today’s devotional.

Our own solutions to find happiness are usually temporary, unfulfilling, or even dangerous. How tragic that a person who is only looking for some personal satisfaction in their life – a purpose for living – would die trying to find it in booze, drugs, crime or sex. That is like trying to cure a tummy ache with poison. Unfortunately, millions of people are running toward their graves feeling hopeless, unhappy, useless or just lonely. Hopelessness is a heavy burden to carry on your back. Loneliness is a terrible condition of your heart. It is horrible to feel useless. However, these problems all have a solution which is a gift from God just waiting for you to unwrap.

I promise you that your search for happiness and satisfaction in bars and clubs, in booze and drugs, through sex, gangs or crime, will not work. The bottle may help you feel briefly numb to the disappointments in your life, but the hangover brings even more regret. Alcohol is a depressant, not a stimulant. Seeing attractive people in a club may give you momentary hope that you can also find a lover and friend, but you will usually go home alone...again. If you think that having sex or getting married at age 15 will bring you happiness, you are wrong. Instead, it will create more mouths to feed, sick babies to care for, an angry spouse and even angrier in-laws. Many young women become OFWs to escape lives that bad decisions produced for them.

We said in the previous devotional that the biggest threat to your satisfaction is: YOURSELF. Making people or things the focus of your happiness, brings only momentary relief. And though you might think my invitation to make Jesus your best friend is silly, he is absolutely the best cure for loneliness and self-pity. Once you accept Jesus as your best friend and enter into the exciting relationship he offers you, your attitude will change and you will become more attractive and interesting to other people. Plus, the quality of people you encounter will improve. Possessions will have less value and interest to you. No one will have to tell you that promiscuity is wrong, because you will feel that it is out of place in your life. Hanging out at discos and bars in the hope of meeting someone new, will become uncomfortable for you. This is how the Holy Spirit works. He illuminates the things in your life that can bring joy, and darkens those alternatives that produce sadness and grief.

If these descriptions of an unsatisfied person apply to you, I suggest you change your attitude. Start spending quality time with Jesus instead of the friends who have left you without joy. When you do socialize, do it with other Godly people. There is nothing more helpful than spending time with genuine brothers and sisters in Christ. If your church does not offer social opportunities for singles, find a church or Christian organization that does...or start one. You might be surprised to find that a weekly Bible study will lead to more opportunities to socialize with people who want the same thing...satisfaction.

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