

## Prestonwood Connection

### Living In The Shadow Of The Almighty #3

#### Satisfaction

#### Psalm 1

Wednesday, September 3, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message *Satisfaction In The Shadow Of The Almighty*] < 261 >  
So great. Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, tonight we thank You that there is not anything that we need that You do not have the supply. And so I pray that as we come to this place and as we've tried to, in these moments, pull our eyes away from the things that may have been depressing and oppressing and overwhelming us when we walked in the room tonight. That there would be a great sense of Your strength, of Your mercy and of Your power and Lord I trust You to move and to work in our lives through Your Word, through fellowship with one another and through prayer. And Father I just thank You tonight that You have provided that which our soul does crave, Jesus, the Living Water, Bread that fills and satisfies and so Lord Jesus we look to You tonight in these moments in Your name we pray. Amen. Amen.

In just a, a..., few weeks here at Prestonwood we are going to take the opportunity that God has given us through all of these new facilities that we have just opened to invite our community to come in and to be a part of a great community wide outreach that we're simply gonna call, *The Success In Life And Family Conference*. That's gonna take place beginning Wednesday evening September the 24<sup>th</sup>. A..., Jim Cymbala, the pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church is gonna be here on that Wednesday evening and is gonna be the kick off service for this entire event. And there're gonna be a host of different seminars and special gatherings for men and women and couples and single adults and senior adults and students and, and all kinds of gatherings that are gonna take place and it is gonna be an absolutely wonderful e...event. And the real purpose for this whole event is going to be to seek to reach out and to touch the deep heartfelt needs of people in the community around us. Every day people pass this property and they wonder about this tremendous facility that's here and, and there's really one question that they're wondering about deep down inside and that is, "Do those people really have anything that I don't? Do they really have any answers for the things that I'm facing and the needs that I have in my life?" And so it is gonna be our commitment and our desire over these a..., days to seek through *The Success And Family Life Conference*, to try to help people to connect their need with the greatest source of supply in all of the world and that's the power of Jesus Christ and the

wisdom of His Word. And I'm so excited about that conference because I really do believe that the thing that people are, all around us are searching for is that they're searching for success. And when I use that word I realize it can kinda have that shallow, polished, veneer sound, "Success" you know, something that shines, something that glitters. But I think that for most of us when we think about success, what we really think about in life is we think about a life that is making it, a life that is meaningful, a life that is satisfied. And so many people are living life without satisfaction, so many people are looking for answers in life and yet over and over again they keep coming back to the fact that the things that they had looked for to satisfy and to supply have ended up leaving them empty. Most people in life are simply going through life with a cup in their hands. Of course here in Texas, we're got big Texas sized cups and what we do in life is we go around looking for somebody, something, someone, somewhere to just say, "Would you fill my cup?" That's how most people live their life. By the way this is a PowerLunch mug in case you can't see it. [pause for slight congregation laughter] PowerLunch begins next Tuesday, September the 9<sup>th</sup>, the first PowerLunch. You didn't pay anything extra for that. But anyway, just the same, [more laughter] I say all of that to say that for most people in life the whole way by which they live their life is a when/then mentality, a when/then mentality. When I can get my cup under the right source I'm going to be satisfied. If I can just buy the right car then I'm gonna be satisfied. If I can just wear the right cloths then I'm gonna be satisfied. If I can just live in the right neighborhood then I'm gonna be satisfied. If I can just get the right job then I'm gonna be happy and successful in life. If I can just get outta school and get that degree then I'm gonna feel like I've really made it in life. When I find that person, that person that I've been lookin for and people are goin around all the time saying, "Is it you, is it you, is it you, is it you?"

Sorta like a little girl who was taken to church for the first time to watch a wedding. She'd never been before, with her mom, they were sitting there and suddenly came that big dramatic moment when the music began to build and the bride started coming down the aisle and she was dressed in that gorgeous white wedding gown and the little girl reached over, grabbed her mommy and said, "Mommy, mommy why is she wearing that big white dress?" And her mother was just trying to find a, an appropriate response and she said, "Honey, she's wearing that dress because it's bright and it's beautiful and this is the happiest day of her life." And she said, "Well, mommy, why is the groom wearing black?" Heh! [pause for congregation laughter] There a lot of truth in that isn't there, huh? [pause for congregation laughter] Because the reality is, is that most of us are going through life saying, "Is it you? Is it this? Is it that? When/ Then?" And most of us go through life wanting someone, something, some place to fill the empty cup and yet time and time again people end up empty and dissatisfied and sometimes even broken and wondering if their life will ever be meaningful and their life will ever matter. Because this is so much at the core of who we are as human beings, it is no surprise that it is the very first issue that God addresses in the very first Psalm. Psalm 1 is an expression of our desire for success and satisfaction

in life. And God knowing the need that everyone of us has to have a sense of purpose, meaning and significance provides for us an expression and even more than that, an instruction as to how we can have a full and a meaningful life. You wanna be successful? You wanna be satisfied in life? Then let me tell you this Psalm is as though it were the prelude to all of the other Psalms. It is a Psalm that provides for us a picture of life as it was meant to be. And so I want us to read together tonight what the Bible has to say about this subject of satisfaction and about ultimately being successful in life. Psalm 1 beginning in verse 1:

*<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits at the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup>And He will be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That shall bring forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf shall also not wither; and whatever he does shall...*

What does the next word say?

*...prosper.*

Prosper, circle that in your Bible. Circle that in your neighbors Bible. [pause for congregation laughter] Prosper, let's read the second half:

*<sup>4</sup>The ungodly are not so, But they're like the chaff which the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup>Therefore the ungodly will not stand in the day of judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall...*

What?

*...perish.*

Perish, circle that in your Bible. Let your neighbor circle that, you know and you all swap now. [pause for slight congregation laughter] The first part of the Psalm talks to us about how you can prosper. The second half of the Psalm is the contrast and tells us how we're gonna perish. And there really is this incredible contrast between satisfaction and dissatisfaction, success and failure, prosperity, that which will last and abide and will matter and that which will perish and will pass away and will be meaningless in life. And so here at the very outset the psalmist says,

*Blessed...*

Blessed, my goodness that word has become such a, a bland word in the Christians world today isn't it? I mean when we use that word blessed, is we, I'm blessed by this and blessed by that and bless you and bless me and bless everything and God bless us all. And somehow the word blessing has lost its significance and its weight in our lives. But when the Bible uses the word blessed, the word that is used is literally, oh the fullness, the

completion, the satisfaction of a life that is lived according to the life that is described here. And so the Bible gives us the absolute contrast and parallel in 2 ways. The Bible describes 2 kinds of life. This is really how so many of the Psalms are poetic in fashion. It's called parallelism. It's one idea contrasted with another or one idea being completed by another. And in this Psalm the 1<sup>st</sup> half is the positive and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half is the negative.

And so what I wanna do is I wanna start with the negative half of the Psalm and I want us to consider where most people live life and it is simply this they are existing in the search mode. Most people are living their lives beginning in verse 4:

*...like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

They're just **EXISTING IN THE SEARCH MODE**. It's like every day they log on to their computer, they look at that spot that says search and they start typing in and say today I'm gonna try this and this and this and no matches are found and over and over they look in life for that which would fill their cup, for that which would give them the information, the guidance that they need to fill the emptiness of life. But most people live their lives existing in the search mode and that's exactly where the Bible presents the person, beginning in verse 4, who is living this way. It says they are:

*...like the chaff..*

Chaff is simply the part of the crop of the grain of the wheat that is just simply that which is blown away. It has no roots. It has no attachment and frankly the way that most people live their lives is that they live their lives being blown around and getting blown away. That's how most people live their lives, just being blown around by one thing, blown away by the next. The Bible calls this ungodly. Some translations even go so far as to call it wicked, but the wicked are not so and the condition of being wicked, the condition of being ungodly is simply a person who lives without any God thoughts and any God attachments in their lives. They live life without trying to involve God in the equation. They've assumed that somehow under the sun they can find what they need to have a sufficient life and so they go from one source to another, from one search engine to another only to find that again and again there is nothing that is meaningful or nothing that matters in life. I've heard our pastor Dr. Graham say on many occasions:

*"The problem with most people is not that they live vile lives, but ~~they~~...their lives are lived in vain."*

They just live vain lives. It's not that everybody is bad, mean, awful and ugly and we have plenty of those kind of people in the world and you know a few of them and I do too. I would appreciate it if you wouldn't look at them while I'm speaking right now. [pause for congregation laughter] But the fact of the matter is, is that most of us live vain lives. There's

nothing of substance. It's like that movie clip. It's the young man who seems as though he's handsome and sharp and is going somewhere but when he gets honest with himself and honest with someone else, he says, you know I don't know that I'm really happy in life, there's a void inside of me.

And the Bible describes the chaff kind of a life, the search mode of living in 3 dimensions and most people in our world are living in this 3D reality, they are driven, they are drained and they are doomed. They're **DRIVEN** like the wind, moving back and forth, no roots, no attachments, just driven from one thing to another. They're **DRAINED**, chaff is like that which has no substance, it's shallow, it's hollow and so they're just hollow existence. They're drained of strength, drained of stability, drained of purpose and then ultimately the Bible simply says they:

*...will not stand...in the congregation of the righteous...and the way of the ungodly will perish.*

They ultimately are **DOOMED**. The greatest tragedy of the lost world is not only that they're lost now, but they're gonna be lost for eternity. They're gonna not only live without God now, they're gonna live in a godless eternity in Hell. And that is the great tragedy of the world that surrounds us day in and day out, that we walk through, that we live around, that we interact with, is that there are people all around living in the search mode of emptiness in life. [pause]

In Matthew Arnold's Rugby Chapel, these words are found:

*"Most men ebb about here and there, eat and drink, chatter in love and hate, gather and squander, are raised aloft, are hurled in the dust, striving blindly, achieving nothing and then they die."*

Now that's not exactly a call to worship, but it's certainly a call to reality and the reality is, is that so many people in life, really and truly would have to say that possibly the greatest statement of this generation was made by Mick Jagger when he said:

*"I can't get no satisfaction."*

[pause for slight congregation laughter] Lots of things. Lots of stuff, no satisfaction. They're existing in the search mode. But now the Bible says, that while this is a reality, there is another alternative, there's another way that we can live. And so I want us to go back now to verse 1 and I want us to begin to pick up and look at the opposite of that which is presented here and that is that we are not to go through life living, existing in the search mode but we can **ENJOY A SATISFYING LIFE**. You can enjoy a satisfied life. It's the life that God intended for you to have. It's how God made you. He made you that He may complete you and that He may satisfy you. The Christian life is a positive life, it is a productive life. That's why the Bible says:

*Blessed is the man...*

It's a good thing. So many people think Christianity, a life of faith, is actually a life that is restrictive or a life that is negative. But that's never the picture of the Bible. The Bible always depicts the life that is lived in reality with God, as being a life that is full and meaningful and that is satisfying and so here the psalmist tells us about how we can live the satisfied life. How do I live satisfied? I don't wanna be like the chaff. I don't wanna be like those around me living in search mode. How can I live a satisfied life? Well, he tells us some specific things.

Number 1: If you're gonna live the satisfied life you gonna have to **SECURE** your mind against the downward pull of worldly thinking. That's a mouthful, but let me say it one more time. You have to secure your mind against the downward pull of worldly thinking. We live in a world that is always calling us to look down and to look around. God is calling us to look up. God is calling us to look unto Himself. But the world around us is constantly calling us into an arena of life where we are comparing, where we are looking and examining and evaluating life based on how we see it day in and day out and so the Bible says therefore you've gotta be careful. The Bible says:

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly,...*

To walk, is to simply live in the awareness of what's going on and many of us have become overly aware of the progress and the things of the world around us. But then it not only says:

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly,...*

It says:

*...Nor the one who stands in the path of sinners...*

Walking is an awareness, just kinda seeing it as you pass by. But standing is actually moving to a level of association where you take time to become associated with the thinking of the world around you. And then it says:

*Blessed is the man who...does not sit in the seat of the scornful;*

Sitting is absorption. You've been absorbed into the very mindset of the world and if there's one thing that the Bible warns us ~~again...a...a...~~of again and again, it is this issue of guarding our minds and our thoughts, in order that we might not be caught in the web of the suggestive and depressive things of this world that would pull us down and pull us in and keep us from the satisfaction that God wants us to experience. It's so easy to get absorbed into this world. It's the battle that I fight every day. It's the battle that you are fighting because so much of what I live in and around has to do with the things of this world and yet it is vital for me to say to you tonight that is you're gonna have a satisfied life you're gonna have to have a certain level of detachment from this world. Because the greatest lie in all the world is to believe that you can be satisfied within this world apart from God. That's the biggest lie and

therefore the Bible simply is saying to us that we need to guard our minds. Romans chapter 12, verse 2; many of you know this passage of Scripture. Romans 12:1 talks about dedicating ourselves to God but then verse 2 simply says:

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.*

The will of God will not go according to the course of how this world stands and walks and sits. Your walk will be different. Your stands will be different and who you sit with and associate will be different. That's why the Bible warns us against it. Again in 1 John chapter 2, the Bible warns us about this world when it says:

<sup>15</sup>*Do not love the world nor the things that are in the world. For if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...*

And so if you are going to have a satisfied life, you can't live your life at the lowest level of instinct. Most people live at the lowest level, at the gut level and they spend a lot of time listening to the voices around them and they spend a lot of time getting involved trying to listen to themselves, a lot of self talk. You don't need self talk and you don't need social talk, you need God talk in your life and there's only one way that you're gonna get that and that is in contrast to the world mentality that pulls us down. We have to change the direction of life.

And so that's the 2<sup>nd</sup> step in satisfaction: It's not only securing your mind against the downward pull of worldly thinking, but it's to **SATURATE** your life with the Word of God. You wanna know some place that you need to put the cup of your life every day? Put it under the spigot of the living water of truth, the Word of God. And I'm telling you tonight, ladies and gentlemen in a way like I can't even put into words. If you begin to put the cup of your life under the spigot of the Word of God, you'll be amazed how full and complete and satisfactory your life will be. The problem is we're drinkin from all the wrong sources and there's only One source that will ever complete and sustain and satisfy and that satisfaction comes from the Word of God. It says here:

<sup>1</sup>*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stands in the paths of sinners, or sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD,...*

He delights in it. It is the great joy, it is the great blessing. I hear people all the time around me, out in restaurants and when they're on...and when I'm on airplanes and different places talkin about where they're gonna go drinkin for the evening. "Awe, man, we're gonna go get some drinks." I mean all these commercials, we're gonna go, we're gonna go drink and yet the problem with all the drinking is that it leads to

wantonness and emptiness and nothinness. But I wanna tell you there's a drink that you can have in Christ and it's His Word, His Living Word and there's nothing that will fill the thirst and quench the thirst of life like the Word of God. You see the satisfied life is the life that has learned to appreciate the Word of God, to delight in it, to rejoice in it, to appreciate it, to embrace it... < **turn tape** >

A number of years ago I had a, a..., student minister who served on my staff. He was a wonderful young man and one of the things that I loved and appreciated is that as he taught our students, he taught them the value of honoring and appreciating the Word of God and he was the first person that I'd ever heard share this statement. Every time he would step to speak to our students he would always have them open their Bible's and he's say I want you to repeat after me and this is what they would say:

*"This is my Bible. I am what it says I am. I have what it says I have. I can do what it says I can do. Today I will be taught the Word of God. I boldly confess my mind is alert, my heart is receptive, I will never be the same. I'm about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same. Never! Never! Never! I will never be the same. In Jesus' name. Amen."*

Now that is appreciation for the Word of God and we need to **APPRECIATE** the Word of God. Satisfaction in your life will be in direct proportion to what...how much...how many time and how often you put your cup under the spigot of the sufficiency of the Scripture.

But not only to appreciate the Word of God, to **ASSIMILATE** the Word of God. It says he will:

*...delight in the law of the LORD, And in His law he will meditate day and night.*

Meditating simply means that you will let the Word of God not just splash into the cup, but you'll let it begin to become something that is full and complete and, and is totally absorbed into your life. Meditation is to the mind and the heart what digestion is to the body. And just as you eat a meal and then you need to digest it, so it is that we need to do the intake of the Word of God. But not just to walk away and say, oh that was great, and spill the cup on the way out the door. But instead that we begin to take time to treasure it and to absorb it. It may be that you just take a verse each day and let that verse become something that through the course of the day you say Lord, help me to live my life understanding, absorbing, applying this verse. It may be one verse a week. It may be taking a portion of the Scripture and just reading it over and over. Sometimes a small book, like the book of James and for the course of a month just read it through as many times as you can in the course of the month. Taking the Proverbs, 31 chapters, 31 a..., days in most months and just reading those over and over, but asking God to just let the Word of God be absorbed into your life that it may be assimilated into your daily experience. Because it is the saturation of your life with the Word of God



that will bring satisfaction to your life.

There's a final thing that the Bible tells us tonight and that is not only that if we're gonna be satisfied, must we guard our minds against the downward pull of worldly thinking and saturate ourselves with the Word of God. But there's something else about this life that I think that is so very important and that is that it says this life will:

*...be like a tree...*

What a contrast, chaff, driven, drained, doomed, but this life is:

*...like a tree Planted by the rivers of living water,...*

And the Bible says it:

*...brings forth fruit in its season, it's leaf also does not wither; And whatever it does shall prosper.*

You're talking about a full life here, a life that is so full that not only is it full and stable, planted by the river, but it's a life that brings forth fruit. And real satisfaction in life comes when you **SHARE** your life with others through good works. When you let God's Word produce work in you, not works that take you to heaven, but works that demonstrate you're goin there one day. And the works are so real in your life that they begin to be born through you, day in and day out and your life begins to be shared with others. You know what's wrong with most of our world? Everybody's trying to live life for themselves, wrap it up in themselves, get it all for themselves. You'll never be happy doin that. The only thing that makes life satisfactory is when you give it away, when your fruit can be shared. Did you know that in the New Testament there are 50 specific references in the teaching ministry ~~to Jesus~~...of Jesus about fruit bearing? In just...this coming Lord's day our pastor's goin begin a new series of messages about kingdom fruit and bearing the fruit of the virtues of the kingdom of God found in Galatians 5. How vital it is for us to listen that we may bear the fruit of likeness to Christ in all that we do. Because satisfaction in life comes when your life is being shared with others and the Bible says this life is so full that it's:

*...leaf does not wither*

And I love what Derrick Kidner said in his commentary about that passage, he said:

*"The promised immunity of the leaf from withering is not independence from the rhythms of the season. That is not that everything in life is always, yeah, great, fabulous! But rather freedom from the crippling damage of the drought."*

What that means is there'll never be a season of life where the fruit that you bear cannot have benefit for others. Sometimes it's seasons of

sweetness, sometimes it's hard seasons. But your life can be used for others and the Bible says that when that is your life, that whatever you do it's gonna prosper. Prosper isn't a place in Texas [pause for slight congregation laughter] prosper is a life that is reflective of the fullness of satisfaction when someone is rightly related to God and rightly related to His work. And that's really what it's all about. It's about living life as God intended for it to be.

Phillip Brooks, a great preacher once said this:

*"To find his place and fill it is success for a man."*

I think that's wisdom. To find your place and fill it is success. But I would even go further to say that to find your place and fill it, your place and fill it is satisfaction in life and God has a plan and a purpose for you. He wants your life to be lived on purpose and not just a purpose that is burdensome but one that is very filled with satisfaction because it is lived in relationship with Jesus Christ.

My pastor, growing up, many times quoted the words of a stanza of a poem that I've never forgotten. I actually believe they're words of a song, but this is what they say:

*"Friends all around me are searching to find,  
What the heart yearns for by sin undermined.  
I have the secret, I know where it is found,  
Only true pleasures in Jesus abound."*

You wanna be blessed? Then there's only one place that your cup will ever be filled, it's the Living Water, His name is Jesus, it's the Living Word, that is truth and when this word gets in your life and Jesus Christ is alive and real in you, your life will never, never, never be the same.