

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

Phone... (919) 787-1910

E-mail: office@mabc.org

Web Page: www.mabc.org

*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager

EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

VOLUME 39

September 2017

NUMBER 9

What do you want??? Have you ever been asked that question by someone who has been exasperated by our constant petition... *I want, I want, I want.* Maybe you have asked that question of someone who never seems satisfied. Perhaps you have discovered how hard it is to give a satisfactory answer to yourself... *What do I want?* Let's listen for learning.

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me... And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:11-13, 19)

My heart goes out to the parent who promises their children that if they are good, the child will get to choose what kind of toy they get at the store. The lesson is usually learned during subsequent trips to the store that the toys become bigger and more expensive to the parent and less and less satisfying to the child.

Humanly speaking, we are subject to think that if we are good enough, God will bless us with what we want. The problem is that we really cannot be content with what we want. Want is always found wanting. Wanting is never satisfied. When we view God as some kind of cosmic benevolent grandfather who gives in order to reward good behavior will be painfully disillusioned with Him.

But once we understand that God gives because He loves, we are never the same. His measure of grace is not measured by our merit. He gives more and more of His grace to those of us who seem to be the least deserving. Paul was one of those who received much grace and who learned how to be content. He believed that contentment began with our acceptance of God's grace. Here are some thoughts on today's passage:

I. WE ARE NATURALLY DISSATISFIED. We are born wanting. We want because we do not have all we need inside ourselves. We are born without our greatest need being met... a personal, intimate relationship with God. So we strive all our lives to find that which we lack. And everything but God Himself never satisfies. Paul wrote that he did not speak from his position of wanting. This is because he was no longer a natural man, but a supernatural one. Someone who satisfies had found him.

II. CONTENTMENT IS A LEARNED CONDITION. Contentment is an ordered state of spiritual discipline. We learn contentment when we practice gratitude. When we examine what we have been given, what we share with Christ, and evaluate the grace of God, we will find ourselves humbled and in most cases contented. The more we learn to practice gratitude, the more contented our nature will become. Contentment comes with maturity. It comes with the knowledge of God's nature and intimacy with Him.

III. SATISFACTION IS KNOWING THAT GOD IS ALL WE NEED. Conversion comes before contentment. Jesus satisfies. If it does not come from God, it's probably something that we don't really need. We need to be more like God. And we need a boatload of grace for that. Many a struggling Christian is still trying to pay God back for His grace and work their way into His approval. The truth is that we are approved through Christ's work on our behalf. The sooner we accept that truth the more we will know God has given us enough of Himself for ourselves. Thank God for the Grace of God today. Stop grumbling... Be grateful... You'll be satisfied... I promise.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam