

God is Satisfied

Are You?

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BRISTOL

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GOD IS SATISFIED : ARE YOU ?

“**A**NXIOUS souls generally begin at the wrong end. They begin with themselves instead of beginning with God. It is their doings— their feelings— their satisfaction— themselves in some way or other ; and often it is a very long time before they learn to turn from themselves and look at God’s side : yet they never can find peace of conscience and joy of heart till they do. We are continually meeting such cases.

“ We ask them, ‘ Are you saved ? ’

“ They reply, ‘ I hope so.’

“ But are you not sure about it ?

“ Well not exactly, I only wish I were. I am seeking for it and praying for it ; but I can’t say I’m sure. I don’t seem to get satisfied.”

“ O the numbers there are in

this condition. Praying, seeking and trying to get satisfied. It is all self together ! They are putting the cart before the horse, and are surprised because they can't get it to go. Of course not ! The Gospel begins with God ; not with us. Look at that well worn but unexhausted 16th verse of the 3rd of John as an example. ' For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' It begins with God. God loved—God gave. We believe—and we have everlasting life.

" Start then with God ! See how He has been met—how He has been glorified—how He has been satisfied : then *you* may well be satisfied when you have learnt that *He* is.

" I remember, some time ago, meeting a young sailor in this very condition. He had been in that state for about three years. (Perhaps the reader of these lines has been in this state for twice three.) He had been seeking and praying and trying to

feel satisfied. And what do you think delivered him at last and made him perfectly happy? Just one simple fact which he had overlooked the whole of those three years.

“ Do you ask what is it ?

“ It is the fact that — ‘ *God is satisfied.* ’ Now just think of it ; turn it over and over in your mind ; read it slowly : and let *your* poor weary heart take it in.”

“ GOD - IS - SATISFIED.”

“ Oh, said the sailor as his face brightened, I never thought of that before — ‘ *God is satisfied.* ’ ”

“ Yes,” I said, “ He was the offended party by your sins. You were the offender. Jesus came to satisfy God’s holy and righteous claims by dying for our sins ; and He did that work perfectly. And God has proved His satisfaction in the Person and work of Christ by raising Him from the dead. Had God not been satisfied with that work, He would have left Him in the grave : but He has taken Him

out, and proved He *is* satisfied. And it was all for you ! Surely if God be satisfied with the work of His Son, you may be also !

“ I see quite clearly where you are making your mistake,” I continued ; “ you are trying to be better and feel different ; trying to work yourself up to a certain state of happiness, and then feel satisfied with your own joy ; and because you are always failing and never arriving at the standard you have set up, you are dissatisfied.

“ Now just suppose a man buying goods at a shop to the amount of five pounds, and then he gets into difficulties and is unable to pay. He cannot pay the debt himself, and he is not aware that any one has paid it for him ; and so you find him going about saying, ‘ Oh ! if I could only get satisfied.’ You would say to him at once, ‘ My friend, you never can be satisfied until you have paid your debt or some one has paid it for you. The shopkeeper *must* have payment and be quite satisfied *first*. ’

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“ But now, supposing a kind-hearted friend goes to the shopkeeper and pays the bill, and obtains the receipt and sends it to the man ; he would not sit down and look at the receipt, and say, ‘ If only I could feel satisfied.’ Of course not ! He would know the five pounds was paid ; for the shopkeeper had given his receipt : and thus the proof of the shopkeeper’s satisfaction would give him satisfaction.

“ Thus it is in the Gospel. The Saviour who stood in our place was ‘ delivered for our offences, (He had none,) and was raised again for our justification.’ (Rom. iv, 25.) So that the risen Christ is God’s receipt for me. He is satisfied ; and so am I. Now why should you not be this very moment, and give Him the thanks and praise ?

“ It was sweet to see the effects of this truth on the sailor as his heart drank it in. He was filled ‘ with *joy* and *peace* in believing ’ (Rom. xv, 13) that ‘ God is satisfied.’ And looking at me with a face

beaming with joy, he said, 'I see it all, I see it all—God is satisfied : I can go home and thank Him for that.' ”

Now, dear anxious reader, you have read thus far, will you lay down this tract and say, 'I wish I could get satisfied.'

Never ! Never ! Never will *you be* satisfied until you have believed that God has found infinite satisfaction in the work of Christ on the cross, *for you*. “ He *bore* our sins in His own body on the tree.” (I Pet. ii, 24.) He cried out on the cross, “ IT IS FINISHED ”— and died. (John xix, 30.) But thank God, He is risen again, and exalted to the right hand of God. (Acts ii, 32, 33.) Yes ! “ This Man, after He had offered *one* sacrifice for sins, for ever *sat down* on the right hand of God.” (Heb. x, 12.) From whence God has sent the Holy Ghost to give this witness to all believers. “ Their sins and iniquities will I remember NO MORE.” (Verse 17.)

Matchless Saviour ! Thy work is done. *Once* was sufficient for God, and once is sufficient for me. I can meet God now with joy ; for Thou hast answered every question and settled every claim ; and introduced me to that blessed God, who “ rejoices over me with joy ; who rests in His love, and joys over me with singing.” (Zeph. iii, 17.) Yes ! the way in which He receives the poor, dissatisfied, repentant, returning prodigal : covering him with kisses ; clothing and feasting him ; tells out the *satisfied heart of a satisfied God.*

Dear anxious soul, try no longer to *do* anything ; wait no longer to *feel* anything : but rest, where God rests—in Christ, who has so glorified Him at the cross that He can send a message of love to you, and say, “ *God is satisfied.*” Now *are you ?*

W. E.