

# Helping People Come to the God Who Satisfies

Jim Newheiser

I. Introduction: The uniqueness of our approach to addictions. Col. 1:28 1 Co. 6:9ff Gal. 5:16ff 1 Thess. 1:9f Ezek. 14:3

II. Come to Christ to receive satisfaction and life. v. 1-5

A. Don't waste your life pursuing idols that never satisfy. v. 2 Pr. 9:13-18

1. The Israelites were continually turning to idols which could not deliver them.
2. Counterfeit "food" will leave you empty – substance abuse, sensual pleasure, entertainment, food, possessions, accomplishments, etc. Ecc. 1:8 2:1ff 4:8 5:10 Deut. 8:3 Pr. 23:4-5,20-21 10:1 31:4 2:16ff 5:8ff 7:22ff Ezek. 7:19 2 Pe. 2:19
3. Seeking from earthly things that which God alone can give is idolatry. Jer. 2:13 17:5-6 II Ti. 3:4 Phil. 3:19 Ezek. 14:3 2 Tim. 3:4 1 Co. 10:31 Eph. 5:5
4. What do you really believe will bring you happiness and fulfillment? Ps. 90:12
5. God alone offers what is good and brings you everlasting delight. v. 2b 58:11,14 Jer. 17:7-8 Ps. 34:8 17:15 63:5 65:4 103:15 90:14 37:4,11
6. Turning from idols to God is the key to overcoming slavery to sin (addiction). 1 Th. 1:9

B. The LORD offers you a rich banquet. v. 1 Pr. 9:1-6 Matt. 22:1-14

1. God doesn't merely command you to quit your pet sin (idol), but rather He offers you something much better.
2. Water to satisfy your thirst. 5:13 41:17 44:3 49:10 58:11 12:3 Ps. 42:1f 63:1 Am. 8:11
3. Wine to make your heart glad. 16:10 Ps. 104:14-15
4. Milk to nourish you. Ex. 3:8,17 Deut. 32:14 Jer. 11:5 I Pe. 2:2
5. A reminder of the Exodus. 48:21 Ex. 17:3-7 3:8,17 Ne. 9:15 Ps. 105:40 I Co. 10:4
6. This promise is fulfilled in type when the exiles return to the land. 49:10 7:22 44:3 35:6-7 43:20 41:17-20 58:11 Eze. 34:26 Joel 3:18 2:19,26
7. What food and drink do we need? v. 10-11 Deut. 8:3 Lu. 4:4
8. The fulfillment comes in Christ. John 4:13-15 7:37-38 6:35,47-51 Col. 2:3,9-10 Zech. 14:9-10 I Co. 10:4-5
9. We await the culmination at the final heavenly banquet. Rev. 7:16 21:6 22:17

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C. The banquet of God's blessings is offered to you freely. v. 1

1. The only condition is that you admit your need and come. Mt. 5:6 11:28f
2. Someone else has paid for this feast. Isa. 53:4-6,11 2 Co. 8:9
3. If you try to pay, you cannot eat! 64:6 Phil. 3:9 II Co. 8:9 Ro. 11:6
4. Christ freely invites all to come to Him. Mt. 11:28ff Jo. 7:38-39 3:16 Lu. 14:16-24

D. If you will heed God's call you will enjoy His covenant blessings. v. 3-5 Ezek. 37:24ff

1. You will participate in the everlasting promises and blessings given to David. v. 3-4 42:1ff 49:2ff Jer. 32:40 II Sam. 7:8-16 John 18:37
2. Through Him the nations are drawn to God. v. 5 9:7 49:7,3 45:22 2:1-5 60:9 61:10 Ps. 18:43 Zech. 8:22

III. Call upon the LORD to receive pardon and blessing. v. 6-13

A. Seek the LORD—now! v. 6-7 45:22

1. Seek Him before it is too late. v. 6a 58:2 Mt. 7:7 Ps. 34:10 10:4 14:2 32:6
2. Call upon Him (faith). v. 6b Ro. 10:13,8 Gen. 13:4
3. Turn from your sin (repent). v. 7a 66:18 I Th. 1:9 Pr. 4:23 Ge. 6:5 Mk. 7:21f
4. The LORD is compassionate and forgiving. v. 7b 1:18 30:18 Ex. 34:9 Je. 31:34

B. God's thoughts and ways are beyond your thoughts and ways. v. 8-9

1. We need to repent of our wicked ways and thoughts and submit to God's holy ways and thoughts. v. 7a Ps. 103:11 Gen. 6:5
2. How can you know God's ways? Ro. 10:17 Deut. 8:3 John 1:1ff Col. 2:3ff

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C. God reveals and achieves His sovereign purposes by means of His Word. v. 10-11 45:23 42:9 46:8-11 Ps. 115:3 107:20 Heb. 4:12 Ps. 19:7ff

1. The Word is sent forth to bear fruit by turning man from the folly of his sinful ways and thoughts to the thoughts and ways of God. v. 10 I Co. 3:7 Deut. 8:3
2. The Word sometimes is used by God to condemn the wicked. 6:8-10 John 12:48
3. God's Word perfectly accomplishes all for which He sent it. v. 11 46:8-11 53:11
4. God's Word is infallible and mighty! v. 8-9 II Ti. 3:16-17 He. 4:12 Jer. 23:29-32
5. As we proclaim God's Word, we expect to see fruit.

D. If you heed God's Word, you will experience perfect joy and peace in His new creation. v. 12-13 54:10

1. A new joyful Exodus. v. 12a 51:11 52:10-12 43:16f Ex. 14:22 Jo. 3:16 Ps. 114:1-6
2. A procession of peace. v. 12b 9:6-7 11:6-9 53:5 54:10 Ps. 45:15-16
3. A new creation. v. 13a 41:19 Rom. 8:19-21 Gen. 3
4. An everlasting memorial to the LORD.

## IV. Concluding Applications.

A. How can we, in practical terms, turn from my idols to eat from the Lord's banquet?

B. Things to say to yourself when tempted.

1. I need to see my sin as it really is – the Evil One is trying to get me to worship idols. John 8:44
  - a. Idols lie–Sin never satisfies. Isa. 55:2a 2 Pet. 2:19 Ecc. 2:1ff
  - b. Idols kill–Sin destroys your life. Prov. 23:29-35 7:22-23
2. I need to see myself as I am in Christ. 2 Co. 5:17
  - a. My old self has died and I have been set free from slavery to sin. Rom. 6:1ff Gal. 5:16ff
  - b. I have been bought with a price and am now called to glorify God with my body. 1 Co. 6:20 10:31

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3. I need to see God as He really is. Ex. 34:6-7
  - a. God invites me to come to receive pardon. Isa. 55:6-7 1 Jo. 1:8-2:2
  - b. Christ is far more satisfying than sin. Isa. 55:1,2b:10
  - c. Wholeheartedly seek after Christ and His wisdom. Prov. 2:1ff James 1:5ff

## C. Things to do when you are tempted.

1. Fight sin.
  - a. Flee—practice radical amputation. 2 Tim 2:22 Prov. 5:8 Mt. 5:29-30
  - b. Stop hiding and seek accountability. Heb. 3:13 10:24-25
2. Learn to feast at the Lord's banquet. Isa. 55:1ff Prov. 9:1ff Ps. 34:8 John 6:51
  - a. Personal prayer and Bible reading. Deut. 8:3 Ps. 19:7-10
  - b. Public means of grace. Heb. 10:25 Acts 2:42
  - c. Fellowship. Prov. 10:21 Heb. 10:24-25
3. Serve and love people instead of using people. Gal. 6:2 Eph. 4:28 1 Pet. 4:10  
Tell others what God has done for you.
4. Enjoy God's earthly blessings in their proper place. 1 Ti. 4:4-5 Pr. 5:15ff Ps. 104:15