

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

AN UNSATISFIED LIFE

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART FORTY TWO OF SIXTY FOUR*

Hundreds of people are living unsatisfied. In most cases the causes are unknown to them. The solution thus is often sought in those things which only aggravate the problem. An unsatisfied life has two causes. First, men desire the wrong things. The things desired will not give satisfaction even if gained. Second, men leave God out. They are dependent wholly upon their own efforts which are never adequate. James describes the unsatisfied life: "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and covet, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war; ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2). Seeking satisfaction for evil desires and never seeking God leaves man frustrated, unsatisfied, empty and oft times bitter.

Consider desires. There are few evils in life that cannot be traced to covetousness or envy. It should be obvious that the person who seeks to own as much as possible, or to gain preeminence over as many as possible will never be satisfied. There will always be more wealth to gain or more people to dominate. He is doomed to "kill, covet, and not obtain." In contrast, the trusting follower of Jesus has true peace, full contentment, and solid joy. "Having food and covering we shall be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:8). This satisfaction is always

out of reach of the unconverted. Only in Christ do we learn to be content in any state (Philippians 4:11). It is the love and pursuit of money that pierces men "with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:10).

Man cannot know what to desire unless he lets God into his life. He can obtain real satisfaction only by being in a praying relationship with God. Some unsatisfied people pray, but are still unsatisfied. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may spend it in your pleasures" (James 4:3). Christians can pray with confidence knowing God will bestow blessings upon them when they ask. God knows what will promote their highest good. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matthew 6:32). "How much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11).

There is no greater need than to learn to love what God commands and to desire what He promises. "Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33). If you are unsatisfied with life, this is the answer.

(B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257