

Intro: What do I truly need in life?

## 1. God is a Specific Person

- a. Who is “my God” according to Paul?
  - i. The God who made everything (Acts 17:24)
  - ii. The God who supplied for Abraham's needs (Acts 13:16ff; Rom 4:13)
  - iii. The God who carried Israel out of Egypt by His own power (Ex 19:4; Deut 1:31)
  - iv. The God who rescued Israel from her self-imposed gods time and again by providing judges (Ps 81:7; Isa 46:1-4)
  - v. The God who substitutes Himself for His people!! (Rom 5:6,8; 1 Pet 3:18)
- b. Significance of “my” as an indicator of apostolic particulars
  - i. This is the God that Paul believes in, proclaims, and has instructed people in for his ministry
  - ii. The Philippians would understand that Paul is making a distinction here between *any* understanding of “god” and Paul’s prophetic and apostolic understanding of God
  - iii. This is significant today, too, for there are many gods and many and various understanding, or perceptions, of “God” in our society and even within the Church
    1. Open Theism
    2. Jewish Oneness
    3. Liberal Non-Judgmental
    4. Conservative Works-Righteousness God
    5. etc.
- c. This does not mean that we can know *everything* about God, but we can know Him *certainly* in what He has revealed Himself to be.
  - i. Deuteronomy 29:29 – “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our children forever, that we might do the words of this teaching”
  - ii. John 17:3 – “This is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent”

## 2. My God Will Supply

- a. It is a promise of future provision
  - i. he “will”
- b. He is the completer of His promises
  - i. God is faithful to supply according to His promise
  - ii. God is willing to supply
  - iii. God is powerful enough to supply
- c. He is faithful to that end
  - i. Two aspects to faith: Subjective and Objective
    1. subjective is “I believe that this object is dependable and true to its promise so I will lean on it”
      - a. imagine a stone wall that one can lean on
      - b. If that wall is constructed of Styrofoam for a Shakespearean production it may not hold you up
      - c. But that subjective faith is no different if the wall is real or not
      - d. Many people only view faith in this light and say that all faith is subjective and it is inconsequential what you are trusting in, it’s only that you really believe in it
        - i. If that were true, you’d fall over

- ii. Which leads to the second aspect of faith
- 2. Objective faith is based upon the surety of the object in which you are trusting to keep its promises
  - a. One is only saved, or has their needs met, when the object being trust is capable and sure of keeping its promise
    - i. A real stone wall and a fake stone wall both promise strength and immovability
    - ii. But only one really keeps its promise
      - 1. This is of ultimate importance, because if you are trusting in something that cannot fulfill its promise you will fall
      - 2. However, if you are trusting in the genuine, the one capable and sure of keeping its promise, you will stand
- 3. It is not the subjective faith that saves us, but rather the object of our faith that saves
  - a. Everybody believes in something, everyone has subjective faith that believes somebody or something can bring about its promises to deliver
  - b. We are saved *through* faith: Faith is the agency, the tool, the means, but not the subject, the actor, the savior
    - i. Eph 2 – God made us alive together with Christ...for by grace you have been saved through faith, which is a gift of God
  - c. The point is that it is not this faith that saves us, it is the One whom we trust to keep His promises to save.
- ii. God is genuine, capable of keeping His promises, and has proved it over and over again throughout history
  - 1. His promise is secure, He will hold true
  - 2. So, it's not so much that you merely believe (for the naïve believe just as strongly, but in incapable objects)
  - 3. It is that you trust in the capable object whom Paul calls "My God"
- d. Only this God, the One True God, is capable of providing what we need with surety. All else is futile faith, empty words (Col 2:8-10) because it is not according to Christ.

### 3. He Will Supply for ALL Our Needs

- a. ALL
  - i. This is what is amazing about this particular promise in 4:19 – every other promise of God is contained within it

A fixed, constant attention to the promises, and a firm belief of them, would prevent solicitude and anxiety about the concerns of this life. It would keep the mind quiet and composed in every change, and support and keep up our sinking spirits under the several troubles of life....Christians deprive themselves of their most solid comforts by their unbelief and forgetfulness of God's promises. For there is no extremity so great, but there are promises suitable to it, and abundantly sufficient for our relief in it. ~Samuel Clark

- ii. There is no need which God cannot nor will not supply sufficient provision to meet that need
  - 1. All our *needs*, NOT all our *wishes* ☺
  - 2. This is not to say that what we think we need is truly our need, nor does it imply that what we want is truly what God will provide.

Early in his ministry Henry Ironside had an experience that illustrates this kind of provision. On one occasion he had acted on faith,

as he often did, to preach for two weeks in Fresno, California. But the time came, surprisingly to him, when he was entirely out of money and no funds with which to eat. He was even forced to check out of his hotel room and leave his suitcase at a drugstore to be picked up later. There was some complaining and bitterness. When the thought of Philippians 4:19 crossed his mind – “and my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus” – his spirit rebelled. “Why doesn’t He do it?” he questioned. It seemed that God had promised but was no longer keeping His word.

That night, as he settled down under a tree on the lawn of the courthouse in Fresno, God spoke to Ironside concerning things about which he had grown careless. In his prayer and meditation he experienced a spiritual awakening. From that time on the work went better. Old friends appeared, first to invite him to lunch and later to provide accommodation. The church to which he was ministering took a collection to help him out on his return journey.

At the end he went to the post office and found a letter from his father, much to his surprise. He opened it, and there staring him in the face was a postscript which read, “God spoke to me through Philippians 4:19 today. he has promised to supply all our need. Some day he may see that I need a starving! If he does, he will supply that.” Ironside says, “Oh, how real it all seemed then! I saw that God had been putting me through that test in order to bring me closer to Himself, and to bring me face to face with things that I had been neglecting.” (J. Boice, *Philippians*)

3. In fact, the supplication of our needs is met here in this very verse as being according to His glory
  - a. Within every need there is the need for His glory
  - b. and this glory is suitable for each need
  - c. All of His promises find their “yes” in Christ, who is the securer and provision for our needs

b. What are these needs?

- i. *Some* of them are:
  1. Forgiveness – Eph 1:7; Col 1:14
  2. Reconciliation – Romans 5:11
  3. Family – Social – Mark 10:30; Rom 8:14
  4. Peace – Romans 5:1; Col 1:20
  5. Something worthy to love – Rev 5:9-12; Deut 6:5; Ps 116
  6. Someone to love us – Rom 5:8;
  7. Transformation/Change – Rom 8:9-17; Gal 5:17-25; 2 Cor 3:18
- ii. If we look at the promise of the Holy Spirit and His fruit, we see the needs which He came to provide.
- iii. There are also those needs (all of them) that are more temporal – food, shelter, clothing, etc. that God also provides for
  1. We must never neglect the promise of the King to provide a Kingdom free from these things: hunger, thirst, scorching heat, sorrow
- iv. Any gospel which doesn’t take into account God’s supply for these things is too small

#### 4. God Supplies According to His Riches in Glory

- a. He has the means
  - i. scooping ocean water into a jar: does it capture the majesty of the ocean?
- b. His glory is the richness that fulfills all of our needs

- i. “according to” not “out of”
  - 1. His provision is in proportion to and is consistent with His glory
  - 2. This supplication of God has to do with His glory, not merely as the source, but also as the content and the means of our supplication.
- ii. What is glory?
  - 1. God eternal significance, His “weight” of goodness, beauty, majesty that consists of the greatness of His character and the works which flow out of it
  - 2. The splendor and majesty of His person, His character, His works
  - 3. We are called into THIS!!
    - a. The smoking temple of Isaiah, the burning shrub of Moses, the thundering mountaintop of Israel, the fiery pillar in the desert, the voice like many waters that shakes the earth
    - b. We are called into such a glorious presence of infinite power and majesty to find the supply for our needs
- iii. You see, God is enough for our souls
  - 1. It may be that we need a “starving” in order to see our true need, and it is gracious of God to tear away the stage props of our hearts in order for us to see Him and be filled with joy
  - 2. “In your presence is the fullness of joy” Psalm 16:11
  - 3. “As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” Ps 17:15
  - 4. Psalm 63

## 5. This Glory is in Christ Jesus

- a. The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:6)
  - i. continuing through v18 re: suffering and difficulties as means of glory
  - ii. life consists not in ease or comfort or physical sustenance, but in the unseen things
- b. All the promises of God find they "yes" in Him...to God for His glory (2 Cor 1:20)
  - i. Forgiveness
  - ii. Acceptance
  - iii. Love
  - iv. Mercy
  - v. Justice
  - vi. Hope of Redeemed Bodies - Resurrection
  - vii. Etc.

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for through the curtain, that is through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of dependence, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:19-22)