

Finding Satisfaction

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to talk about finding satisfaction because finding it is so very important to us as humans.
2. We see evidence of this at every turn.
 - A. If you go to the store or into your kitchen you will likely find multiple products promising “Your satisfaction is guaranteed” or some derivative of that.
 - B. If you watch or listen to commercials, you will see that most marketing schemes are designed to convince you that if you buy their product, you will be “satisfied,” or even “more than satisfied.”
 - C. We are constantly bombarded by those trying to convince us they can provide what we need to be “satisfied.”
3. To be satisfied has some interesting definitions.
 - A. Now, synonyms for the word are happiness, fulfillment, contentment!
 - B. But the **definitions** are far more intriguing. It means:
 - i. To be **pleased** because you **got what you wanted** or **something happened the way that you wanted**.
 - ii. To be **persuaded** by **argument** or **evidence**
 - iii. Being **paid in full**
4. As I thought about it, I felt these really are the best angles from which we should consider the subject. So, that is what I want to do—to look at being satisfied from the standpoint of these three definitions.

BODY:

I. Satisfaction: Pleased because you got what you wanted

- A. For the most part this is the world’s definition of satisfaction because it is focused on meeting our desires, on receiving what we want.
- B. Worldly satisfaction is most generally offered through “stuff.”
 1. As far as “getting the stuff you want” goes, this country is unparalleled in its opportunities to do that.
 2. A 2015 **PEW Research Center** report found that in 2011¹ **56%** of Americans had a **high income** and **88%** of Americans were considered **wealthy** by the **world’s standards**.
 - a. This still holds true today. For the **2022 US Census Bureau** report found that the median, or middle, household income in the USA to be **\$70,784**. So, 50 have higher and lower incomes.
 - b. According to **givingwhatwecan.org**, a charitable organization, this means that half of the US workers are in the **top 4%** of wage earners in the world.
 - c. For, the median income worldwide is **\$2,800**, which means ours is 25x greater!
 3. The **2022 Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report**:
 - a. The mean/average **wealth** of Americans is \$579,000, which is in the **top 10%** of global wealth.
 - b. The median/middle wealth of Americans is \$93,000. So, if your combined assets (i.e., car, home, land, bank account, etc.) add up to that number, then you are in the **top 13%** of global wealth (<https://wid.world/income-comparator/>).
 - c. We can buy “stuff” and we do. Compared to the world, we are rich...though you may not think so.
 4. Has “stuff” brought us satisfaction (i.e., happiness, fulfillment, contentment)?
 - a. **Forbes** (Mar. 20, 2020): Cited the “**The World Happiness Report**” from the United Nations that ranked 156 countries based on GDP, life expectancy, generosity, social support, freedom, etc. and the USA ranked **18th**, **down 7 spots** from the first poll in **2010** (while income/wealth are high!).
 - b. This lack of satisfaction is being seen in the lives, and deaths, of the citizens of this country.
 - i. **National Survey on Drug Use & Health**² surveyed 600,000 people and found that **depression and suicide rates doubled from 2009-2017** for those in their **early 20’s**.
 - ii. The **2022 CDC report on suicide** shows this trend is continuing at an alarming rate.
 - 1) Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for teens and young adults ages **10-34**.
 - 2) **25.5%** of adults ages 18-24 reported **seriously considering suicide** in the **past month**.
 - 3) **18.8%** of high school students reported **seriously considering suicide** in the **past year**.
 - C. Maybe the world’s lure of **fame**, with its **power**, **recognition**, and **fortune**, is the means to satisfaction?

1. **Tom Brady** – Famous retired quarterback of the New England Patriots and TB Buccaneers with a net worth of **\$530 million**
 - a. In June of 2000, age 23, Brady signed a 3-year rookie deal for \$866,500 and led the Patriots to a Super Bowl title. One year later he signed a four-year contract extension worth **\$29.6 million**.
 - b. In 2005 at age 28 he signed a 4-year contract for **\$42.8 million** and had at least 3 Super Bowl rings. The dynasty Brady built made him a household name. And his accomplishments wrote his name in the history books. Some consider him the GOAT!
 - c. Did this satisfy?
 - i. At **age 27** Brady had a very interesting analysis of his life: “Why do I have three Super Bowl rings, and **still think there’s something greater out there for me?** I mean, maybe a lot of people would say, ‘Hey man, this is what is. I reached my goal, my dream, my life. **Me, I think...it’s gotta be more than this. I mean this can’t be what it’s all cracked up to be. I mean I’ve done it. I’m 27. And what else is there for me?**”⁶
 - ii. Unfortunately, it seems that rather than pursuing that question, more and more money was offered him, and he continued down the same path.
 - iii. Brady’s life choices, as we have seen in the media, show that he still has not found the answer.
 2. **Jim Carrey** (Actor, comedian, with a net worth of 180 million—a household name):
 - a. At one point he was the highest paid actor in Hollywood.
 - b. The drawing power of his fame mean that between 1995 and 2014 his pay for acting: 3 movies **\$15 million** each; 4 movies **\$20 million** each; 1 movie **\$25 million**; 1 movie **\$32 million** (182 million) (<https://www.legit.ng/1390155-jim-carrey-net-worth-wealthy-comedian-2022.html>).
 - c. He has earned over **300 million in film salaries and bonuses** and his films have grossed almost **4.9 billion** worldwide!
 - d. Did it bring satisfaction?
 - i. In 2017 Carrey was interviewed concerning his life and stated: “I think everybody should get **rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of** so they can see that **it’s not the answer.**”
 - ii. He stated that these things do not make you happy or bring satisfaction.
 - iii. Yet, sadly, the speech showed Carrey still does not know where true satisfaction comes from.
 3. There are **countless others** that are rich and famous and living lives of such extravagance that we can hardly imagine.
 - a. Yet, how often do we find their words and lives attesting to the truth of Brady’s and Carrey’s admission?
 - b. Rich and famous people so often live miserable and broken lives, become addicts and alcoholics, have multiple failed relationships, and commit suicide!
- D. So, does it seem that the world is producing what is promised?

II. Satisfaction: Being persuaded by argument or evidence

- A. We may not have thought about it, but this definition plays a very significant role in whether we achieve true satisfaction or not.
 1. All of us, if we live long enough, must decide what the arguments and evidence presented in this world tell us about life.
 2. Whatever it is that persuades us will have a profound effect on the direction of our life and whether we find real satisfaction.
 3. You know what the world offers and have heard the statistics and testimonies from worldly sources.
- B. Let’s consider the biblical arguments and evidence about life.
 1. Jesus the Son of God:
 - a. Money and possessions can be easily lost.
 - i. They can be lost to the smallest of things (Matt. 6:19-20 – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where **moth and rust destroy**, and where **thieves break in and steal.** ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where **neither moth nor rust destroys**, and where **thieves do not break in or steal;** ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”).
 - 1) We see our “stuff” that was once bright, shiny, etc., wear out, get dingy, become unwanted!

- 2) We regularly see cars that are rusty, beat up, and falling apart. Those cars were once shiny and new, rust free, and tightly assembled—something that was prized!
 - ii. The things we spend so much time working for will perish quickly (John 6:26-27 – “Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”²⁷ **Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”**)).
 - 1) I love food and appreciate the taste of fruits, vegetables, breads, meats, etc.
 - 2) But you cannot let them sit too long, no matter their cost, because they perish!
 - iii. So, Jesus warned of basing one’s life and satisfaction on possessions (Luke 12:15 – “And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for **one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**”)) (ESV)
 - 1) Earthly things can and do provide some satisfaction. For, food satisfies hunger, and we need it to live (Deut. 11:14-15 – Israel would “**eat and be satisfied.**”).
 - 2) The problem is that seeking lasting satisfaction from material things is a **futile chase**.
 - a) Do we not grow tired of things that were once new and satisfied a desire. It comes to mean less or nothing, and we replace it!
 - b) We keep buying something new in hopes of chasing that feeling—filling the void!
2. The Holy Spirit warns against a materialist path—a path walked without God as one’s focus.
- a. John (1 Jn. 2:15-17 – “Do not love the **world** nor the **things** in the world. If anyone **loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, **is not from the Father, but is from the world.** ¹⁷ **The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**”).
 - i. The world and its things are temporary and passing!
 - ii. If you live long enough, you will lose many things to rust, deterioration, and disinterest, as well as to death.
 - b. Paul (1 Tim. 6:6-12 – “But **godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.** ⁷ For we have brought nothing into the world, so we **cannot take anything out of it** either. ⁸ If we **have food and covering**, with these we **shall be content.** ⁹ But those who **want to get rich** fall into **temptation** and a **snare** and **many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.** ¹⁰ For the **love of money is a root of all sorts of evil**, and some by longing for it have **wandered away from the faith** and **pierced themselves with many griefs.** ¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God, and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.** ¹² Fight the good fight of faith; **take hold of the eternal life** to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”)
 - i. These words have been shown to be true time and again on a practical level!
 - ii. The broken lives and disfunction of the rich, the famous, the powerful are displayed in the news daily! By the way, if you like an actor or musician or band, never read about them!
3. Fame? **Solomon**
- a. Background:
 - i. Solomon – David’s son, Israel’s king, and was given exceptional wisdom and knowledge by God, as well as very great riches and honor (2 Chron. 1:8-13).
 - ii. Solomon sought to **enjoy** all the things this world had to offer and **judged** them by his wisdom (Eccl. 2:1-11 – “I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So **enjoy** yourself.” And behold, it too was futility. ² I said of **laughter**, “It is **madness**,” and of **pleasure**, “**What does it accomplish?**”” ³ I explored with my mind how to **stimulate my body with wine** while my **mind was guiding me wisely**, and how to **take hold of folly**, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. ⁴ **I enlarged my works**: I built **houses** for myself, I planted **vineyards** for myself; ⁵ I made **gardens** and **parks** for myself and I planted in them all kinds of **fruit trees**; ⁶ I made **ponds of water** for myself from which **to irrigate a forest of growing trees.** ⁷ I bought **male** and **female slaves** and I had

homeborn slaves. Also I possessed **flocks** and **herds** larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.⁸ Also, I collected for myself **silver** and **gold** and the **treasure of kings and provinces.** I provided for myself **male** and **female singers** and the **pleasures of men—many concubines.**⁹ Then **I became great and increased more than all who preceded me** in Jerusalem. **My wisdom also stood by me.**¹⁰ **All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.”**

- 1) This portion of Solomon’s life was lived in seeking ultimate pleasure and self-gratification.
 - 2) **He got what the world wants!** He achieved worldly satisfaction! For, his “heart was **pleased** because of all my labor and this was my **reward** for all my labor” (2:10).
 - 3) So, you might be thinking that Solomon’s life would offer biblical proof to seek these things. Well, that would be wrong.
- b. Did power, greatness, wealth, pleasure, etc., bring satisfaction?
- i. It was all **vanity**—it does not satisfy (Eccl. 2:11 – “Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold **all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.**”).
 - 1) Eccl. 5:10 – “He who loves money **will not be satisfied with money**, nor he who loves abundance with its **income.** This too is vanity.”
 - 2) Eccl. 6:7 – “All a man’s labor is for his mouth and yet **the appetite is not satisfied.**”
 - 3) Prov. 27:20 – “Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, **Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.**”
 - ii. Man’s only worthy pursuit for life and satisfaction is **God** (Eccl. 12:13-14 – “The **conclusion**, when **all has been heard**, is: **fear God and keep His commandments**, because this applies to every person.¹⁴ For **God will bring every act to judgment**, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”).
- C. Now you have the Bible’s arguments and evidence, and you are going to have to decide which is true, which **satisfies** you. And, that decision is vital to your satisfaction now and eternally!

III. Satisfaction: Paid in full

- A. I must admit that satisfaction found in Christ has nothing to do with being “paid in full.”
1. What God provides to the faithful is a gift—something far **beyond what we are able to earn.**
 - a. Isaiah promised it (Isa. 55:1-3 – “Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have **no money** come, **buy and eat.** Come, buy wine and milk **without money** and **without cost.** **“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance.**”³ “Incline your ear and **come to Me. Listen, that you may live;** And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.”)
 - b. Jesus has provided it (Rev. 21:6-7 – “Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will **give** to the one who **thirsts** from the spring of the **water of life without cost.**”⁷ He who **overcomes** will **inherit these things**, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”)
 - c. Why, because as Rom. 3:23-24 says, “for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,” and that we must, therefore, be “**justified [saved] as a gift** by His **grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”
 2. Though it is a gift to the underserving, God gives us lasting fullness beyond measure.
 - a. Psa. 16:11 – “You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is **fullness of joy**; in Your right hand there are **pleasures forever.**”
 - b. John 6:35 – “Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me **will not hunger**, and he who believes in Me **will never thirst.**”
 - c. John 8:12 – “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me **will not walk in the darkness**, but will have the **Light of life.**”
- B. If your passion is money, wealth, and the pleasures of this world, you will be **paid in full.**
1. You may, and likely will, get **what you think you wanted!** Sin pays wages (Roman 6:21, 23 –

“Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death...²³ For the **wages of sin is death**, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”).

2. You will receive **payment in full**. But, it will come in the form of God’s **anger and wrath being satisfied in your judgment**.
 - a. 2 Thess. 1:7-8 speaks of how “the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in **flaming fire**,⁸ **dealing out retribution** to those who do not know God and to those who **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus.”
 - b. Rev. 21:8 – “But for the **cowardly** and **unbelieving** and abominable and murderers and **immoral** persons and sorcerers and **idolaters** [greed amounts to idolatry – Col. 3:5] and all **liars**, their part will be in the **lake that burns with fire and brimstone**, which is the second death.”

CONCLUSION:

1. So, satisfaction will be yours and mine, one way or another.
2. You will be satisfied by getting what you want according to what arguments and evidence have persuaded you. And depending on what that it, you will be satisfied, or paid in full.
3. So, I hope you will seek satisfaction in God, in Jesus Christ, for that is where true happiness, fulfillment, and contentment is found.
4. Will you come to Jesus today in F-R-C-Bp?