

Weekly Article March 2

We see wreckage all around us. Desperation fuelled by spiritual emptiness is constantly exploding. People are blasted from one diversion to another, seeking to silence the echoing guilt in their heads. They are trying to bury their self-hatred and their doubt of God in the roiling busyness of this age. Such people think that if only they could get what they want: the right car, job, house, spouse, child, or whatever, they would be happy and their guilt would be silenced. They demand that other persons entertain, satisfy, and serve them. If they are displeased by you, they will cast you off. If they are unhappy with their spouse, another will do better. It never occurs to them that they are the problem. But let's be honest. If I am unhappy, then it is my problem. If I am displeased with others, I own the problem. If I feel empty, it is because I am empty. Eve demanded fulfilment from the things around her, seeking to be something more through the fruit forbidden by God. Her problem was not a poor choice of fruit. Her problem was already in her heart where she desperately desired to possess what was not hers to possess and where she doubted God's ability to give all that He had promised to her and Adam (Gen. 3).

God does not want people to remain in that wreckage. He does not desire for us to be destroyed in our emptiness. He does not want us to be dashed to pieces on the sea littered with the flotsam and jetsam of a grasping, venal life. There must be so much more to life than this! There is. Our Lord Jesus Christ promises that there is so much more, "*The Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*" (Matt. 6:32-33). Christ has come among us, bringing His righteousness so that we might not be lost by seeking meaning where there is none. He seeks us not for His benefit but for ours. He turns the tables on us by grasping not for control of us but to set us free. He serves those who have demanded service. He gives Himself freely to us that He might cling to us. While we flounder about seeking this or that solution to our problems, He has embraced us as a life preserver enfolds, refusing to let us go, no matter how much we may struggle to be subject to death. He has brought us into the kingdom of His Father. Now, as we look back, we know and confess that He has set us on the rock of His truth. All the time that we thought He had abandoned us, He was hanging on to us for dear life.

His teaching and truth have brought us from the empty focus on things, money, success, spouse, or whatever else we have turned into our spiritual surrogates. We need to reach out to those who just need the plain truth: that they will not find true joy in the things of this world. Only Christ's righteousness will do. Amid the wreckage, this is a powerful message that the floundering world needs to hear. We have been set upon the Rock of the church, with her divine teachings and words. By reaching down into the wreckage with those teachings and words, we shall offer the world the only message that saves. Only Christ's righteousness will do. You don't get any richer than that.