

Date: July 29, 2012

Subject: O Taste and See - Psalm 34:8

PSALM 34:8

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him."

I.

There are five sense organs by which the human body perceives outside stimulation: hearing, smelling, seeing, feeling (i.e. touch), and tasting.

Notice how the Holy Spirit doesn't say, "O hear and see that the LORD is good," nor does He write, "O smell - or behold - and see that the LORD is good," for all these can be done from a distance; that is, they can be done far away.

There are only two senses we have, which cannot be done from a distance to the thing; our sense of touch, and our sense of taste.

It is by touch we may determine ~~if~~ if something is hot or cold, rough or smooth, hard or soft, dry or wet; ^{for} pain or pleasure. As intimate a sense as touch is, for all would agree that touch is very personal, something done very close; yet God did not see fit to write

"O touch and see that the LORD is good."

Psalm 34 was written by King David; in it, David describes the goodness of God and how God faithfully protects and preserves His people. Back in 1 Samuel chapter 21, we read of David fleeing from Saul who constantly attempted to kill David, so David fled to Achish who was the King of Gath. While standing before this King, David perceived that Achish was already familiar with the feud between Saul and David, so David pretended to be crazy and "scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard" (1 Sam. 21:13). When Achish saw this he said, "Lo, ye see the man is mad [i.e. crazy]: wherefore then have ye brought him to me?"

David escaped with his life, and this is what he is writing about in the thirty-fourth Psalm, in the Holy Spirit.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good:"

David describes the goodness of God as something which he himself has tasted, and so

invites others to do the same. Although we have a sense of touch over our whole ^{body}, ^{yet} only a very small part of which, can we taste.

It is by our tongue that we can not only perform all ^{we} ^{can} by touch, for we touch with our tongue also; but only by the tongue may we taste. We may handle an apple all we wish with our hands, but only by the tongue do we perceive the taste (along with our sense of smell too).

How could someone describe honey if they have never tasted it? How could someone describe the goodness of God, if they have never "tasted" it? Sure, they could tell you how honey looks, how it feels, how it smells; but until they taste the honey for themselves, they have never really experienced the joy of honey.

O how many people know about God, but do not know God? They read the Bible, they pray, they perform all the outward things; but deep inside they know something is missing... something is wrong. What do they do?

They overindulge in one sense hoping to make up for their lack in the other. Like a bee-keeper who -having never tasted the honey- begins studying the honey under a microscope. And so they tell you of the calories, the sugar, the fructose, even the molecules by which it is composed; but no matter how intellectually advanced they become, they will never taste the honey in such a way.

II.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good:"

The word "see" in the Hebrew is "rāa" and means to see, as well as to realize, to experience. It is one thing to know that the LORD is good, and yet it is quite another to experience His goodness, to know this for yourself personally.

Have you tasted and seen how that the LORD is good? Or, are you scratching your head and wondering, "Maybe I have only heard and read that the LORD is good." You cannot look at your outward actions to find the answer, nor can your friends help you; you must answer this question yourself, have you really tasted and seen?

The Bible speaks of those who are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7), these are people who have never tasted and seen. Hour after hour, day after day, week after week ... year after year; they continue to learn, you see, but it never really sinks in.

Let us now answer the crucial question, "What does it mean to 'taste'? How does someone "taste and see"? If I want to 'taste', what must I do?" The answer is in the very same verse,

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him."

Are you truly trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ? Or is your whole Christian life a facade? Is Christ rooted in your heart, or merely on your lips? Maybe you are someone never having believed the Bible or in Jesus Christ at all...

Every day you carry the burden of guilt, you have offended a most Holy God and abide under His

wrath. Your conscience nags at you, and condemns you; and no matter how hard you try to stifle thoughts of God and of the final Judgment, the whole creation gives infallible proof of the existence of the Creator so that you are, "without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

III.

It is to you also; whether you have read the Bible your whole life, or not at all, both groups are included, you are both invited, for the Gospel must go out to every creature.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him." Psalm 34:8

The man who truly trusts in Jesus is said to be "blessed," because he was chosen by God (Ps. 65:4); is corrected by God (Job 5:17), and God gives him more than he can number (Ps. 40:4-5), and he ~~seeks~~ seeks God with ~~his~~ whole heart (Ps. 119:2); and most of all,

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Psalm 32:1

The man who trusts in the LORD is truly blessed because his sins are forgiven, this is the ultimate blessing, and it's the first thing Christ tells us to seek,

"But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

We must seek His righteousness because we are born sinners and have no righteousness of ourselves. God promises to care for all of our needs in life, but we must look to Him alone first, and then, "all these things shall be added unto you." Too many people seek first, "all these things" and so neglect the "so great salvation"; they settle for the dirt and neglect the fruit, and should they have the fruit, they never taste it.

IV.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him."

The Hebrew word translated "trusts" is "chāsa" and means to take refuge in.

We find the Hebrew word "chāsa" translated "make refuge" in Psalm 57:1

"To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in Thee: yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge ["chāsa"], until these calamities be overpast."

A refuge is a place of protection from danger; a shelter. David fled from Saul and hid in a cave, but his refuge - his protection - was God. David trusted in God for the protection of his soul. We find the same idea in 2 Samuel 22:1-3

"And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: and he said, The LORD is my Rock, and my fortress, and my Deliverer; the God of my Rock; in Him will I trust: He is my Shield,

"and the Horn of my salvation, my High Tower, and my Refuge, my Saviour; Thou savest me from violence."

The words "Rock... Fortress... Deliverer... Shield... Horn... High Tower... Refuge... Saviour" are all signifying the same thing, our soul finds Her ^{protection} ~~protection~~ by true faith in God. Are you a skeptic? "O taste and see." Does it sound too good to be true? "O taste and see." Have you been living a double-life; partly Christian, partly worldly? "O taste and see." Be like those in the fourth chapter of John who told the woman,

"Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." (vs. 42).

IV

Do you still have excuses? Are other matters more important to you? In Luke chapter 14 Jesus told a parable about a certain man who made a great supper. When people heard, instead of coming to eat, they all made excuses why they couldn't come - they refused to even taste of

this great supper. Listened to what they said,

"And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." Luke 14:18-20

They all made excuses, they all neglected the great supper, what do you think this certain man did who made this great supper? In verse 24 we read,

"For I say unto you, That none of those men who were bidden shall taste of my supper."

They neglected it and made their excuses, "Maybe later, alright? Not right now, I am too busy..." and now all hope to taste... is gone! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that great supper, taste

now before its too late! "Oh come on Neil, its not that serious..."

It isn't ?? Don't you understand that your very soul's existance is at stake? Would you rather gain the whole world, and lose your soul? Don't you understand that even if you did gain the whole world, you would gladly part with it in exchange for your soul as you ^{would} be about to die? Tomorrow is not promised for you, not even your next breath, and will you persist in making excuses? The time to "taste" is now, the day of salvation is always now, never wait. In Luke chapter 16, Christ tells of another parable of a rich man who dies, he heard the Gospel but neglected it, he put it off and refused to "taste and see," and now in the middle of his torments, look what he says,

"And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:24

What did the rich man want now? His money? His house? His job...? Now he realizes how foolish his excuses were. Now he realizes the value of his soul. Now he realizes how foolish he was for neglecting the Gospel... now he realizes that he wants a taste... but it's too late.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in Him." Psalm 34:8

O weary sinner, believe in the Son of God - Jesus Christ and let your soul find her sweet repose under His shadow and may you say with all who do,

"I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste." Song of Songs 2:3

Your servant for Jesus' sake,

Rev. D. W. Allen

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less - by Mote 1834

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my Anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then be found;
dressed in ~~a~~ His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.