

O TASTE AND SEE

Ps. 34:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that putteth his trust in Him."

INTRODUCTION

ETS: The psalmist invited others to experience God for themselves.

ESS: We should invite others to experience God for themselves.

The psalmist said, "O taste and see..."; we need to say, O taste and see..." The text offers an evangelical appeal. Why does God save us and then leave us in this world? After all, He is able to justify, sanctify, and glorify us in one quick instance. We need to realize that if God had wanted to He could have saved us and then instantly snatched us out of this world. The same grace that is at work in our justification is at work in each of the phases of salvation. So, why does God save us and then leave us here?

As Christians, we need to understand that our main purpose for being in this world is to be used of God to win others to Him. A Christian is in the world to say, "O taste and see that the Lord is good..." You and I need to say, both with our lips and our lives, "O taste and see..."

PQ: What does inviting others to have such an experience involve?

TS: The text offers 3 things to those of us who would be used of God to invite others to experience his goodness;

- 1) a suggestion
- 2) an invitation
- 3) and, a reaction.

Pray with me as we discover these 3 things.

Body

- I. The Suggestion: There are some things that words cannot describe. Verbal language, spoken and written, is valuable, but it is limited.
 - A. The psalmist realized that there are some things that words cannot describe.
 - B. We need to realize that there are some things words cannot describe.

Example: The candy maker, Peter-Paul, used to declare that their Almond Joy candy bar was indescribably delicious. In other words, words could not describe one of their candy bars. The only way that one could know how good they were was to taste one for themselves.

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- C. God is in this category.
- II. The Invitation: Taste and See.
 - A. The psalmist invited those who didn't know, to "taste and see."
 - B. We are to invite the lost to "taste and see,"/experience an encounter with God for themselves so they will know for themselves that God is good. Notice, if you will, the psalmist's metaphoric usage of "taste and see." When the psalmist speaks of such, he intends for one to "experience and know" that God is good for themselves.
 - C. A Christian's job in this world is to invite the lost to taste and see/experience and know for themselves that God is good.
- III. The Reaction: Happy is the person who trusts in God.
 - A. Trust/Faith that leads to salvation always includes joy/happiness. It is more than merely intellectually acknowledging God's existence. Demons do that, but they are not saved.
 - B. Trust/Faith that leads to salvation and thus joy/happiness is an exercise. It is an experience. Too many church folk say they believe, but their lives don't show it. What one believes is always reflected in how he behaves. When one experiences God, one wants to exercise His will. Too many church folk want to feel good, but in order to feel good, you've got to be good.
 - C. The mourner's bench vs. the handshake
We need to make sure our methods don't undermine our message. We need to emphasize the importance of one having an experience with God.

Conclusion

In order to extend this invitation, you have to first have your own experience. You need to know for yourself that God is good. You need to know for yourself that Jesus is God's goodness at its best. His death, burial, and resurrection for us, is God's goodness at its best. Throughout the ages others have tasted...

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cont.

<i>Throughout the O.T.</i>		<i>In the N.T.</i>	<i>The Reformers</i>
Job	David	Peter & Andrew	Luther
Abraham	Isaiah	James & John	Zwingli
Isaac	Hosea	Matthew	Calvin...
Jacob/Israel	Amos	Paul & Timothy	
Moses	Jonah	<i>The Church Fathers</i>	
Joshua	Obadiah	Origen	
Deborah	Jeremiah	Tertullian	
Gideon	Ezekiel	Cyprian	
Samuel	Daniel	Augustine	

My grandparents, My parents, and last but not least, I've tasted.

The more I used to share my Peter-Paul Almond Joy, the less there was left for me. But, the more I share the Joy of the Lord, the more Joy He gives me.

I've tasted, and He's sweet, I know.....!

Have you experienced God's goodness for yourself? Have you had a taste?