

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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October 11, 2020

Content with the Lord

by George Slover

"Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" (Numbers 11:4-6)

The scene recorded above is a vivid picture of how pitiful humans can be when they are no longer satisfied with the rich provisions given to them by God. It was the second such incident recorded in this chapter.

Even though they had been warned at Taberah, once again the Israelites yield to complaining. Their murmurings sprang from an intense craving or unrestrained desire. Their exaggerated expressions remind us of a child's temper tantrum. It was a voice of ingratitude for God's daily, loving, care.

The Israelites, oddly enough, were desiring the dainties of Egypt. Had they forgotten the deplorable conditions of bondage? There is certainly nothing sinful about eating meat, or melon, or cucumbers. Perhaps these may represent the riches and luxuries of this world which can distract us from the richness and fullness of simple fellowship with God.

The attitude of Israel was truly an insult to God. Had they forgotten his mercy, and how he set them free from slavery in Egypt? Could they not see that God had provided all they needed to survive the journey toward Canaan?

Jesus has provided so much for his people. "Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'" (John 6:32,33) Thus,

the covetousness of Christians is a reproach against God, who has loved them and given them everything they need. Those who pursue earthly gains often show contempt for the gifts of heaven.

In the end, God provided so much meat that it was loathsome to the Israelites. God punished their greed by allowing them to have more than they wanted. Such are the ways of the covetous. They will discover that what they wanted so much, does not satisfy. Only God can truly fulfill the longings of the human heart.

Ephesians 4:1–16 ESV

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended

far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Tuesday, October 27 at the building.

Gospel Meeting - October 11-14 at the Benchley church of Christ.

Services for October - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays for the remainder of the year. We will reevaluate in December. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry Richardson
Karen Hallmark
Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Joy Ulrich
Kevin Barth
Lisa Trammel
Tyler Hairston
Bobbie Gibbons
Anna Urquhart
And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

