

What is it That is So Freely Offered?

Isa 55:1-3 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 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 let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you — the sure mercies of David.

If someone told you of a market place here in Northwest Arkansas where you could go, pick up all the groceries you needed and simply thank them at the checkout counter and not have to pay a penny for your groceries and goods, no strings attached, it is simply explained to you that one who has an unending means of wealth continually provides for the store of goods, how many of you would be shopping there this coming week? I suppose you would respond, "You would have to be somewhat of a fool not to shop there."

Isaiah here tells us that there is such a market place, no, it is not a market place for material goods, rather, it is a market place where every need for ones eternal salvation, comfort and joy has been provided by One who "once and for all" has provided for this means. The offer is this, "*Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price*". Barnes in his notes on this passage writes, "None are so poor that they cannot procure it; none are so rich that they can purchase it with gold." Why Martin Luther and the ministers of the Reformation took such a firm stand against the practice of selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sins. This is why our Lord drove the money changer out of the Temple and this is why Peter responded to Simon the Sorcerer when he offered money for the spiritual gift with these words, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!" (Acts 8:20-21) This brings us then to this question before us, "What is this that is so freely offered to us by God?"

Last Sunday in answer to the question to whom is this offer given we noted that it is given to all men, Jew and Gentile, rich or poor, great or small, powerful or weak, slave or free. This morning we shall consider the next question before us, "What is offered in this most free offer?"

A. What is here so freely offered to mankind? - *Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters . . . yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?*

1. We have offered here, water, wine, milk, and bread all providing perfect satisfaction.
 - a. These are symbolic terms; The question is what do they represent?
 - b. Let us consider each one separately that we may better understand the meaning of the text before us.
2. *Water, you who are thirsty come to the waters*
 - a. Water in a desert region can be scarce and a bit pricy.
 - b. And without question we all understand that water is absolutely necessary for life.
 - c. When Israel was in need of water in the Sinai desert wilderness Moses was commanded to strike the rock that water might come forth.

1 Cor 10:4 ". . . all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- d. We can understand then that water here speaks of the very source of life.
- e. And we can rightly assume that it speaks of Christ as our only fountain of life.
- f. Jesus proclaims Himself to be the source of the water of life. (cf. Jn. 4:13-14; Jn. 7:37-38; Jn. 6:35; Rev. 22:7)
- g. This free offer of water points us then to Jesus Christ as the only means of life, of saving grace.

3. Wine is next mentioned - *come, buy wine*
 - a. Wine is symbolic of joy, comfort and satisfaction

Ps 104:15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man,

- b. Men, because of sin are under a heavy burden and threat of death.
- c. Why Jesus said come to me all you who are **burdened** and **heavy laden**.
- d. Outside of Christ there is no comfort
- e. Thus we understand the blood of Christ, as symbolized for us in the cup of the Lord's Table, provides for us the only satisfaction for redemption from the wrath of God and the burden and sorrow of our sinful state.
- f. It is through the blood of Christ that we have forgiveness of sins, of which David cries out "restore unto me the **joy** of my salvation."
- g. Once again if one would have peace with God and everlasting joy, you must come to Christ, that all guilt and shame may be removed.
- h. Wine without cost speaks of God's salvation that gives us comfort and joy even in times of trial and conflict. (see Luke 6:21-23)

4. Milk - that first means of nourishment for the baby

- a. That first offer of the Gospel that called you to repentance and faith.
- b. Come! Place all your confidence in Christ.
- c. By simple faith, receive forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.
- d. That simplicity of the Word of God that brought us to faith.

*1 Peter 2:2 . . . as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.***

- e. That glorious pronouncement of the Reformation - Scripture alone.

5. Bread here speaks of solid food and continued nourishment and full satisfaction - *Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?*

- a. Salvation is not a one stop store.
- b. Salvation is a continuing blessing and comfort
- c. Command of our Lord is "make disciples of all nations"
- d. Milk is necessary for babe, but meat is needed for growth and solid nourishment

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger,

- e. Paul pointed out that this was a serious problem in the church in His day.

Heb 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age.

- f. The meat of the Word has been **freely offered** that you might grow thereby

Pau's prayer was that the church might ". . . be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Col 1:9-10)

CONCLUSION: From beginning to end of our walk, it is a walk of faith freely given

Paul said it this way - From faith to faith

Everything you need for a victorious life in Christ can be found in Christ alone.

As Paul said, my God shall supply all your needs.

Christ is not only the author of our salvation; He is the author and **finisher** of our salvation.

Every day of your Christian walk is a day wherein you are freely kept by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, founded on the Word of God alone to the glory of God alone.