



UPCOMING DATES ...

Christmas Event – 13 to 16 December
Christmas Day Service – 25 December, 9-10am
INY Summer Camp – 21-25 January 2019
2019 Church Fast – 28 January
Missions Review – 3 February
Vision Sunday – 10 February
2019 Missions Vision – 17 February
Imagine Nations Conference 2019 – 21-24 February

For more information or to register for any of these events go to inchurch.com.au

2018 – CG Notes #37

MERCIES & MIRACLES – He Satisfies

Psalm 103:1-5 (NKJV)

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And all that is within me, bless His holy name!

² *Bless the Lord, O my soul,*

And forget not all His benefits:

³ *Who forgives all your iniquities,*

Who heals all your diseases,

⁴ *Who redeems your life from destruction,*

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

⁵ *Who satisfies your mouth with good things,*

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Our response to God's goodness

Whenever I study a passage of Scripture I like to reflect upon it by emphasising different words and phrases. What stands out to me in this passage are the several verbs (actions) which describe both *what God does* and most importantly, *how it is* that we are supposed to *respond to Him*.

This, now very familiar passage begins with what *should be* our response to God: **to bless** - that is to gratefully praise Him and celebrate His goodness. The second is equally important: to **not become forgetful** or complacent about all that He has done for us.

Grateful, thankful praise to God delivers us from a self-focussed sense of entitlement. To live from a basis of gratitude for every good thing God has done prevents us from sliding into disappointment when things *don't* turn out the way we expected or the answer to our prayers is a long-time coming.

As we come to the close of our studies for this year, may we focus on all the good things God has done and all that He *will continue* to do for us. He is the Lord Who **forgives** our sin, Who **heals** our diseases, Who **redeems** our lives from the pit of destruction, Who **crowns** our lives with lovingkindness and tender mercies and lastly, the Lord our God Who **satisfies**.

The Pursuit of Satisfaction

Well known author, CS Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*: "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

Perhaps you have experienced a similar frustration when possessions, experiences, even relationships do not bring satisfaction.

Discuss:

- What are some things, common to human experience wherein we seek to find satisfaction? Often these things are prefaced by phrases such as "When I finally get ..." or "when ... happens" and similar.
- Name some of the most obvious things then think again: what things are subtler, yet the desire for these affects our sense of contentment? e.g. Matt 6:1

He satisfies

As we enter into the month of December the feasting season is upon us. We will be offered too much food and we will (speaking for myself!) probably eat too much as well.

The phrase, "He satisfies, used in v. 5 means to be filled, to have enough and can also refer to age, as in being full of years. Have you ever felt really hungry, so much so that your energy was fading fast? Then you have a good meal, your belly is fully satisfied and your strength returns. This is not the fullness of gluttony which is eating to excess, but the security of having enough and a confidence in our Source of supply. "... So that your youth (strength) is renewed like the eagles."

Discuss:

- What does the phrase "too much of a good thing" mean?
- In what areas of life does this apply and where does it not?

How does He do it?

How does God bring satisfaction to our lives? Why does He do this? How can we position ourselves for more of this in our lives? Firstly, we can understand that this verse of Scripture can be interpreted both naturally as well as metaphorically in a spiritual sense. The Lord is well able to meet our physical needs as well as our emotional and spiritual needs.

The teaching of Jesus brings light to both the natural and spiritual aspects of this verse.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Discuss:

- What aspect of the human condition does this passage largely address?
- What is revealed to us about possible sources of fear and discontentment?
Material things - even things that we clearly need are not our source of satisfaction.
- How does Jesus tell us to direct our hearts? How do we do this?

Luke 11:9-10 (HCSB)

⁹“So I say to you, keep asking,^[a] and it will be given to you. Keep searching,^[b] and you will find. Keep knocking,^[c] and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.