

A GLORIOUS HOPE

"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Psalm 17:15.

What does this expression of David's yearning imply? That he was not satisfied at the time which he made it. Is not that the universal experience of man? Dissatisfaction is characteristic of the present life. Nothing here comes up to the full aspirations of the soul. Men are dissatisfied with what they know; for that reason they go to school. They are dissatisfied with what they have; for that reason they trade and traffic to better their conditions. There is dissatisfaction with many family relationships; hence, so much unhappiness. There is dissatisfaction with environment, circumstances, positions and attainments. This is especially true with attainments in respect to character. Who is as good as he might be? As good as he ought to be? As good as he would like to be? There is dissatisfaction everywhere. The human mind knows two kinds of dissatisfaction: the unhappy dissatisfaction which comes from concentrating on wrong things; and the stimulating dissatisfaction which is the longing of the soul for God. It is the latter type that the psalmist possessed.

"Satisfied" is a beautiful word scarcely found in the literature of the world, because the world is unable to satisfy any man. Yet the word is used with great freeness in the scriptures, because God is able to satisfy any man. The statement of the psalmist in our text indicates that he believed that somewhere there will be a day when he shall find satisfaction and be content.

His statement has nothing to do with the present. He was looking beyond the grave to another world. There are many things that we never hope to be rewarded for here, but we shall be by and by. He was full of faith. There was no perhaps about his words.

I. He Hopes To Awake.

1. It is the hope of the resurrection.

He sees a day beyond his death, life beyond the grave, and the hope for that better day to come.

2. This hope is as old as time.

None can trace it back to human origin. It was born with the first man and has lived in the heart of every man since.

3. This hope is all that can satisfy the imperfections of the human life.

Our mortality cries out for immortality. Just as the blinded eye longs for vision, and the deaf ear strains for sound, and the silent tongue struggles for speech, so the soul longs for a larger freedom and a holier state.

II. He Hopes To Awake In The Likeness Of The Lord.

Tired eyes fall asleep, tired feet rest; but after God's beautiful ordinance of sleep is fulfilled we shall awake rested, refreshed and re-invigorated. When I awake from the sleep of death, my eyes shall see Him.

1. The imperfect soul can think of no standard more challenging than the perfect Christ.

Some Christians have longed to be like Him in this life, but have found it impossible, yet they have carried a hope that one day they shall find the thing for which they have longed.

2. Too often men try to measure God by themselves.

They place the limitations of their own lives around God, but in the case of the Psalmist, he tried to measure himself by the Lord and sought to lift himself up to the ideal.

3. In what sense can we hope to be like Him?

In immortality, in glorified bodies, in holiness, in blessed fellowship, in knowledge and in unbroken peace. What a great hope this is!

III. When This Hope Is realized He Shall Be Satisfied.

1. Contrast this with the present life.

The fun seeker is never satisfied. There is not enough fun in the world to satisfy him.

2. All men realize that this life is unfair, unjust and untrue, but the heart longs for a life that will be fair, pure, just and true. Bitter disappointment is the lot of all who seek satisfaction in merely temporal things.
3. Such a satisfaction is not conceivable just as eternity is not conceivable, for the finite cannot grasp the infinite, and the mortal cannot grasp the immortal, but something within the soul bids man to rest his case in the hope of a better day and of a fuller understanding, and of a completed apprehension of the unreached ideal.

The felicity of the glorified consists in their seeing and resembling Him to whose likeness they shall awake. Imagination, intellect, memory, hope -- all will be satisfied. "Satisfied" expresses more than joy. It is the fulness of joy. There will be nothing left to wish and long for, and all of it will be comprised in the likeness of our Lord. This blessedness will be eternal.