

THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY

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Psalm 49:1-9

1. This is the time of the year when many people are asked, "What do you want for Christmas?"
2. Children write letters to Santa while young people and adults drop hints as to what they would like to find under the tree.
3. This morning I want to focus on three things most people want but many fail to find.
4. They cannot be purchased at any price or obtained through human effort, but they are available to all regardless of our station in life.
5. They are eternal life, unconditional love, and contentment.
6. Let's see what the Bible has to say related to all three.

I. Eternal life.

- A. Notice that this Psalm is address to, "both low and high, rich and poor together." 2
- B. However the writer focuses on those, "who trust in their wealth, and boast in the abundance of their riches." 6
- C. He points out that those who trust in their wealth and boast in their riches:
 1. Will die like everyone else. 10-13
 2. Will have no habitation in eternity. 14-15
 3. Will take nothing with them. 16-17
 4. Will never see the light. 18-20
- D. This Psalm makes it clear that eternal life is not for sale at any price. 7-9
 1. No amount of money can buy it. 1 Peter 1:17-19
17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.
 2. No amount of good works can earn it.
 - a. Romans 3:20
"By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight."
 - b. Ephesians 2:9
"...not as a result of works, that no one should boast."
- E. Eternal life is free for those who repent towards God and embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by faith.
 1. Romans 6:23
"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 2. Ephesians 2:8-9
"For by the grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."
 3. Revelation 22:17
"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come,' and let the one who is thirsty come; let the lone who wishes take the water of life without cost."

II. Unconditional love.

A. A lot of people are described by the line in a song that says, "...looking for love in all the wrong places."

B. The right place to look for unconditional love, and the ability to manifest that love, is God.

1. Romans 5:8

"...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

2. John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

3. Romans 5:5

"...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

4. Galatians 5:22

"The fruit of the Spirit is love..."

C. God's unconditional love allows us to have confidence before God because we know that His love is not conditional.

D. Through the Holy Spirit we are enabled by God to manifest towards others the very same love that is manifested towards us.

III. Contentment.

A. Our consumer driven economy depends on creating discontent with what we have and producing a desire to have more stuff or newer stuff.

B. However, real contentment cannot be bought.

C. Through faith and trust in God we can learn to be content regardless of our circumstances.

1. Paul wrote to the Philippians, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Philippians 4:11

NOTE: Learning contentment is not easy in our consumer-oriented society, but it can be done.

2. Paul wrote the following to Timothy. 1 Tim 6:6-10

6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 **If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.** 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

3. Contentment is the by-product of faith. Heb 13:5-6

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, **being content with what you have**; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

D. Contentment, joy, and peace are ours in and through Jesus Christ, and the contentment, joy and peace of Christ transcend our circumstances.

APPLICATION

1. Eternal life, unconditional love, and contentment all come wrapped in the same package-the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Paul wrote, "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete." Colossians 2:9-10
3. This world offers no lasting satisfaction or contentment.
4. Only in Christ do we find the deepest needs of our lives satisfied.
5. Let me close with a question Jesus asked. Matt 16:24-27

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 **"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"**