

Satisfaction

Text: Isaiah 53.1–12

Theme: Christ's death on the cross satisfied God's holy justice and righteousness.

Introduction — In 1965, a little number came out on the radio

- rose to number 1 on the charts
- the opening guitar riff is easily one of the most recognizable ever

*When I'm driving in my car
And that man comes on the radio
And he's telling me more and more
About some useless information
Supposed to fire my imagination
I can't get no, oh no, no, no*

*I can't get no satisfaction
I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try, and I try, and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no*

Let contrast the great pop theologian, Mick Jagger, with three songs we sang today

- He Will Hold Me Fast
- Before the Throne of God Above
- In Christ Alone
- glorious songs, lifting our hearts in praise of our gracious God
- each speaks of God being satisfied
- satisfied with what? And does this mean He wasn't satisfied to begin with?

Is God unsatisfied?

- when it comes to His justice & righteousness and our sin, yes
- ever since God created Adam and gave His perfect law to him
- ever since Adam broke that law, choosing to try to be his own god & law to himself
- God said: on that day, you will die
- your sin will kill you
- now, if the Eternal, ever-good Creator said that and did not punish Adam's sin and ours
- then justice is corrupted, righteousness means nothing, God is undone, Satan wins

So how can God be satisfied?

- when His justice is upheld, His righteousness reigns, and sin is punished
- sin must be punished for God to be just and satisfied
- the shadow of this was the animal slain to cover Adam & Eve
- the reality appeared when John pronounced "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"
- Adam was only human ever to be able NOT to sin & to be able to Obey unto eternal life
- his sin ruined that, broke that covenant God made
- so something has to happen, it is necessary that something happen

Let's consider...

I. THE NECESSITY OF SATISFACTION

- God's justice needed to be satisfied
- God must be God, always holy, always just, always good, always righteous

In the atonement: God manifests His gracious love toward us

- **Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**
 - if Christ's death wasn't necessary how could the cross on Golgotha show love?
 - **John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**
 - we think of those who risk life to save another
 - burning buildings, automobile wrecks, throes of war come to mind often
 - this risk only makes sense if the friend should be in terrible danger
 - it's not showing great love if you stop your friend from eating that third donut
 - **Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
 - there must be some great issue to be resolved for this to be the case
 - and here's the issue: God's loves His creatures—man— but must punish sin
 - so this cat upon the cross manifests commitment to His own righteousness & justice
 - justice is served: Christ satisfies demands of God's righteousness
 - God satisfied demands of His righteousness by giving to us a Substitute
 - He stands in our place, offerings that satisfaction for us
 - is this not what John 3.16 is truly all about?
 - **John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
 - our sinful state and eternal condemnation is so horrible, God gave His Son for us
 - and He did not spare Him because of His great mercy and love
 - it is necessary as well because it is the only possible remedy for our human predicament
 - if God merely needed to exhort us to try harder and do better, well, the cross is ridiculous
 - sadly, this is what many a liberal progressive theologian has done
 - Christ death is a grand example that we should follow: believe in cause you're willing to die for and such nonsense
 - Paul tells us God put forward Christ as a sacrifice to remit the sins of OT saints
 - they had shed the blood of pigeons, lambs, goats and heifers
 - yet for the most part, most were quite unaware that such deaths alone were incapable of cleansing their souls
 - how could death of an animal satisfy the wrath of God completely for all eternity?
 - how could slaying birds and animals take away our guilt for even one sin, let alone all we do?
 - all those sacrifices were pointing forward in anticipation to death of Lamb of God
- God must always do what is right, it is His nature
 - Judge who always does what is right cannot violate His own nature
 - so propitiation is made: God righteousness is satisfied

- the penalty for sin is paid; our debt canceled
 - God's wrath is satisfied, propitiated by perfect sacrifice
 - expiation is also carried out: our sins removed from us, remitted
 - our sins transferred or imputed to Christ
 - He vicariously suffers in our stead as the Divine Substitute
 - God is satisfied, our sin is removed
 - what humble grace and service we see in Christ
 - this is the blessing of the cross
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- death of Christ was necessary to satisfy the Father because sin deserves condemnation
 - if we think our sins are just little peccadillos, a few slights or indiscretions...
 - if we pass over some white lies, an overindulgence once in a while...
 - if we treat our own sin this way, we will hesitate or even reject necessity of Lord of Heaven dying the death He died on that cross
 - it was the will of His Father in Heaven to obtain mercy for poor, limping stammering sinners like us
 - our prayers of confession would be weak and pale if this is what we think
 - Lord, forgive my foolish ways
 - yes, they are foolish, but they are vile, despicable, heinous, and worthy of damnation
 - however, if sin is abhorrent—think, for example of David's sin with Bathsheba
 - if it becomes repugnant to you, you begin to grasp why it must be punished
 - if we see malicious and malignant evil on the news each day, and we do...
 - if we see that are our stomach turns...
 - then how much more should the living God care about such matters?
 - and how much more should He punish it
 - and He does...and did...in and upon His Son on the cross
 - and His death in our place satisfied the justice, wrath, and righteousness of God

Now, let's see...

II. THE BIBLICAL ANCHOR FOR SATISFACTION

- now, lest you think I have somehow missed using Scripture for this...
 - let's look at just a few of the hundreds that display this blessing of the cross
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- *BCF: By [Christ's] obedience and death, Christ fully paid the debt of all those who are justified. He endured in their place the penalty they deserved. By this sacrifice of Himself in His bloodshed on the cross, He legitimately, really and fully satisfied God's justice on their behalf.*
 - **Hebrews 10:14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
 - **1 Peter 1:18-19** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
 - **Isaiah 53:5-6** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

- *Confession goes on: Yet their justification is based entirely on free grace, because He was given by the Father for them, and His obedience and satisfaction were accepted in their place. These things were done freely, not because of anything in them*
- **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- allow me to finish what those Baptists said some 337 years ago
- *[Sinners who are justified have had this done for them]so that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God would be gloried in the justification of sinners*
- **Romans 3:26** It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- **Ephesians 1:6-7** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
- **Ephesians 2:7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- God was fully satisfied in the death of His Son
- not simply a symbol of something moral or otherwise
- God's justice must be satisfied, and is completely in Christ's work on the cross
- for all who are in Christ, God's wrath, in part and in whole, is removed
- but all this came thru another, not through us
- **1 Peter 1.18–19: you were bought with a price, the price of Christ's blood**
- He paid the ransom to free us from our bondage

Based on free grace because He was given by the Father for them

- we are connected with Adam; he is our representative head in our humanity
- from Adam come all the nations and individuals
- in Adam's fall, we all fell; in his death, we died
- in Christ, we have a new representative
- so, in His obedience, we live; the covenant head of the redeemed

His obedience and satisfaction were accepted in our place

- God appointed His Son as One to bear load of human guilt
- that we are accepted by God has nothing to do with us
- we paid no price, we earned no right
- it has been freely given, by grace alone
- again, remember what we read & heard in Isaiah
- let me read it just one more time so it may sink in:
- **Isaiah 53:5-6** But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;

**we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.**

- as I said, that this was all necessary is everywhere in Scripture
- that Christ's work was completely satisfactory to God's justice all thru the NT

Christ's death on the cross satisfied God's holy justice and righteousness.

So what? What does this mean for you and me? Let's consider...

III. THE APPLICATION OF THIS SATISFACTION

- God's punishment was not partial, but entire
- nothing more the Son had to suffer
- still nothing more He has to suffer
- Christ's death is more than sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world
- this satisfaction Christ brought is a payment of debts
- God's wrath is propitiated—appeased and satisfied
- our sins & guilt are expiated—carried away by Christ on the cross

If fire captain enters burning building, he experiences full danger & heat of fire

- matters not whether he is rescuing one person or 100 people
- Jesus suffered all there is to suffer on cross when came to rescue us
- no limit to that suffering that He might have to do so again

What does this mean for you?

- means no special kind of sinner that is outside work of His satisfying God's demands
- what have you done? What are you doing even now?
- doesn't matter; Christ suffered infinite justice & infinite wrath of God
- Behold the Lamb! Who takes away your sin
- today, if you do not know Christ, no faith: resting and receiving Him
- any sinner who comes to Him will find mercy
- O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
- trust in Jesus Christ now, because God is satisfied with what Jesus has done

Conclusion – And so we sing, with Augustus Toplady

- *Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save and Thou alone.*

*Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;*

*Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.*

- you could have never-ending tears 24/7/365 for life and still not enough
- could not satisfy God's justice and righteousness against our sin
- only the God-man has achieved the total satisfaction of God
- take all the blessings we have considered over the past month
- it was God Himself who provided the satisfaction
- His Son humbled Himself, took our place, and gave us His righteousness
- because God is satisfied with His Son's work, He declares "Not guilty!"
- Christ's death on the cross satisfied God's holy justice and righteousness.