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The Contentment and Peace Found in the Lord

Psalms 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

David was a man who faced much trouble, opposition and danger in his life. From the efforts of King Saul's jealousy to take his life, to the rebellion of his son Absalom, David understood tribulation. Yet in all those times of trouble, the Lord never forsook him or left him. David, when he penned the words previously cited, understood by experience, the Lord is sufficient in every need. And for us too, in the year 2017, God is still and will forever be "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps 46:1). The Lord proved to David, and has proven over and over to us all, that He is sufficient for all His little children. Therefore, the child of grace should be able to find, what David found, contentment with the Lord ("I shall not want").

When searching the Scriptures, we find other godly men and women who found, an unsurpassed experiential peace that's only found in Jesus Christ. Let us consider:

(1) Paul was a man who faced the troubles of this world. The Apostle Paul was a man who understood that the experience of a child of God can, and often will be, a roller coaster ride. Paul said of himself in Philippians 4:12, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Yet in all these things Paul would say, "I can do all things through Christ which

strengtheneth me." Paul found contentment and peace, facing every challenge of life, in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(2) Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were men who faced the persecutions and hatred of this world. Every time I read Daniel chapter 3, my heart cries out in compassion for these three faithful men. When facing the horror of a "burning fiery furnace" they held to their commitment to the Lord, believing that He "is able" (Dan 3:17). Those three men, who were thrown into the furnace heated "seven times", were delivered by the One in whom they had believed. By the Lord's presence, and that alone, these three experienced peace even while in the furnace.

(3) Simeon was a just and devout man who declared that he was able to face death in peace (Luke 2:29). The words of Simeon, after he had held the Lord's salvation in the person of Jesus Christ, have brought much comfort to the saints in this temporal world. To have the comfort of departing in peace is such a great blessing from God.

My son, Joshua Benjamin, and I went to the barber shop this week for a haircut. While Joshua was in the barber's chair, the man cutting his hair told me an interesting story. We had been discussing the fear of flying in airplanes and how some are more afraid than others. He told me of a lady, who was on a plane during a terrible storm. Everyone else on the airplane was trembling in fear, but not the lady. She sat patiently in her chair crocheting a blanket. When asked why she was not in fear, she answered, "The Lord blessed me with two daughters. One of my daughters passed from this world 2 years ago. I'm on this plane, flying to see the other and I'm going to be thankful to see the one God's grace will bless me to see first." Amen!