

ARE YOU THIRSTY?

In the creation of man, God not only made provision of food and water for man's needs, but also gave us hunger and thirst that we might desire them. Without both, life would be impossible. While this is true physically, God has also put within us a spiritual craving. We should be as the psalmist who wrote, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1). To a woman who was living an immoral lifestyle Jesus offered "living water" for her thirsty soul, which would result in everlasting life (John 4:6-14). Because of the presence of sin in our lives, the word of God declares plainly, "There is none righteous, no, not on" (Romans 3:10). However, through the grace of God there is a righteousness available to us. It is "even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (3:22-23). Jesus Christ is the believer's righteousness. Apart from Him we have nothing of which we can boast (v. 27). Dying for our sins upon Calvary's cross, He has made it available to all who would come to Him.

As God has provided not only the water to satisfy physical thirst, providing what is needful for our physical health, but also the "water of life" for thirsty souls who thirst for righteousness, promising, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). In viewing our priorities in our lives, what stands out as your number-one aspiration? Jesus made it plain to His disciples: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). The "kingdom of God and His righteousness" stands at the center of the believer's life, while "all these things" must be subordinate. That for which we must thirst is His righteousness, imputed to us by faith, and evidenced in our submission to Him who reigns over all. They were thirsty souls who cried out in desperation to the apostles in response to the message of Christ delivered in Acts 2, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (v. 37b) The blood of Jesus was on their hands. Peter's reply was as water for the thirsty souls: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (v. 38). Yielding themselves to Christ, 3000 that day (v. 41) found the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in John 7:37-39: "...If any man thirst let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly that flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...." This partaking of the Living Water of His spirit must be constant in our lives as Christians. Jesus, in addressing believers whose thirst had been turned to material gain, had John write, "And the spirit and the bride say, Come, and let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

Are you thirsty? For what do you thirst? --Ron B.