

COMPLETENESS

Webster's primary definition of *complete* is, "...having all the necessary parts." This states very well the thinking of most people regarding the complete person. This individual, as we say, "has it all." Unfortunately, "all" is usually measured in secular terms, that is, the things of this present physical world. Thus, one who is basically healthy in body and mind, socially well adjusted, and materially well-off is thought to be complete. This person, it is said, "has it all."

Forgotten in this mind-set is the fact that we have more to think about than the physical realm of this present world and the very few years we will live in it. Indeed, every one of us has a spiritual nature given to each individual by God. It is this spirit of the human being that God bestows in his own image and which endures eternally (Genesis 2:26, 27; II Corinthians 4:16-18).

Consequently, no one can be truly complete who fails to think of God and take his will into reverent consideration. As Jesus put it in quoting Moses, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

So, what do we need from God that this material realm cannot supply? Two major items: (1.) freedom from the burden of guilt; (2.) victory over death. Nothing weighs mankind down more than does the weight of these two problems.

Guilt is a legitimate reaction to our awareness of wrongdoing and its effect of alienating us, not only from people, but from God himself (Colossians 1:21).

Death is the great tragedy with which we all are only too familiar. Already, for just about everyone, it has deprived us of the joy and companionship of family and friends—the dearest ones we have known. And, though many do their best to ignore this reality, too soon death will lay its cold hand on each one of us, as well. More, we must then stand in judgment before our God (Hebrews 9:27).

By his grace, God fills these needs for us in Christ Jesus. Through the cross, Christ has provided both pardon for our sin and certain conquest over death. Truly, in Christ alone can we truly "have it all," "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; AND YOU ARE COMPLETE IN HIM" (Colossians 2:8, 9).
—Jerry F. Bassett