

Admiring or Tasting?

An apple tree laden with fruit is certainly to be admired. Red, perfect apples on a tree present an attractive picture, and perhaps an even more attractive one, when we see an array of them all shiny at the market. But why would we just stop there? Don't we want to TASTE?

The Bible says in Psalm 34:8, *O taste and see that the Lord is good*. Many people admire the teachings of Jesus, reflect with pleasure on His spotless life, consider Him to be a Man among men, but then stop short of actually TASTING. But once the fruit is proved to be tasty, eating naturally follows. So it is with a taste of Jesus; we want to have more. Just as an apple tree is laden with fruit, the Lord Jesus will prove to be an inexhaustible store of blessing.

Beyond Admiring to Tasting - The Biblical significance of TASTING is coming into direct contact, taking Him as He is, and then making Him part of you. This means looking seriously at His message. He declared (John 6:37) *Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out*. And in John 10 verse 9: *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture*. Contained in these verses are multiple promises: 1. Acceptance if one is willing to approach. 2. The promise of security for eternity. 3. The door of entrance into relationship, 4. The promise of continuous food for the soul. These are rich promises, endorsed by God; so why not TASTE, why not try, why not test to see what lives up to the "advertising", and then enjoy to the full? Many have done so and have proven it to be all true, And in fact, like the Queen of Sheba when she saw Solomon's glory with her own eyes, they can say *The half was not told me* (1 Kings 10:7).

A costly offer - Let's be clear; there was a cost involved in making it possible for Jesus Christ to offer such amazing promises. He, as the only perfect man, without a single sin, had to die in agony on a cross, bearing the sins of all who would later turn to Him for full salvation. The Apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:3 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures*. There had to be a sacrifice suitable to God, blood had to be shed and no one but Jesus Christ, God's only Son from eternity past, could fulfill that requirement. Then, on the third day He rose from the dead.

You need to TASTE for yourself. First, admit you are a helpless sinner before God, admit that nothing you have done, or thought, could be of any benefit to you; no good from you can be added to what Christ has already done. Now TASTE: come to Jesus, come believing, come trusting in all He has accomplished, and receive eternal forgiveness. Teachers often intone, "Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest". Reading is like TASTING, the rest is making it your own; so that it becomes a part of you, imparting energy and strength.

A rock-solid foundation - One time, long ago, Moses heard the voice of God, saying (Exodus 33:21) *Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock*. That experience looked forward to the day when you and I could stand upon a rock (named Jesus Christ); the only place of eternal security and blessing for anyone. Once there, you will be assured of God of total approval, because He would then see you perfect in Christ.

Don't linger, don't put it off; there is a sense of urgency in that no one knows when their life will end, and after that it's too late. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says *Behold now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation*. It is a "limited time offer", but the exact expiry date is not given. Why take the risk? TASTE and see.

Lorne Perry for 2020 Vision now in 2023

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