

Bulletin Article

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Becoming Complete

By Lonnie Braswell, M. Div.

Isaiah 42:6, I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,...

Somewhere within each heart dwells the need to be whole or complete - that is, for things to "Work out," or for life to be filled with things that we might call "right or good." For some life has become one bitter disappointment after another and so the desire to made complete is tempered by a cynical undertone of eventual failure regardless of the circumstance. Either way, the desire to be made whole still lives. It's ever-present.

The promise of the Christ addresses that desire. Isaiah prophesied to people destined for slavery and yet he gave them a promise of deliverance, justice, restoration and life. (Isa. 42:3-7) He would become the beacon for the wayward traveler. He would free the captive, and give sight to the blind. In effect He would give every heart its innermost desire. Even the very things it was afraid to hope for. He would do this by "hand-holding" us to our destination of sanctification and blessing.

Too many people see faith as a burdensome obligation, seeing faith as a have to, instead of an honored opportunity. God's grace is a privilege by definition, not a punishment. It has the power to ignite, within us, the flame of life and fulfillment which the heart has been longing for.

The chaos that life has is a result of our search to fulfill that desire with anything other than God. Righteousness is reduced to a painful list of human efforts. Whatever gave us the idea that salvation is anything other than a gift, comes from some place other than heaven. While someone might mean well, God's grace is always a VERY SPECIAL GIFT! I don't deny that we have scriptural responsibilities, but they pale in comparison to what my Father does for me all the time. When my Father leads me by my hand, He puts all of life in focus.

Never fear following one who knows where I long to be, and knows how to get there. Even if it means having to put down elements you thought would

get you there on your own. God, and only God, can take us to where we need to be. Only He can make me whole, fix my heart, or save my soul. Never let go of the hand of God.