

## WHY ME? HELP AND HOPE FOR THE HURTING: FACTOR TWO

### We Reap What We Sow – The Consequence/Appendix B: The Dilemma of the Half-full Glass

Is the glass half-full or half-empty? Most of us have been asked that question at one time or another. Usually, your answer indicates whether you are a pessimist or an optimist. For Solomon, the glass was definitely half-full. His problem wasn't a shortage of optimism but a lack of contentment. On the other hand, Asaph was a glass half-empty kind of guy, which led to his time of resentment toward the prosperity of the wicked. Both men became confused and frustrated in their failed attempts at filling their respective glass. However, they resolved their issues with life's futility by coming to the realization that their glass would never be more than half-full in this life. Accepting a half-full glass brought a measure of contentment to both men.

It is precisely there, in the half that is full, that we can enjoy the goodness of God designed for each of us here and now. Coupled with that perspective, we can also embrace another: One day, God will make our glass full, which we will then be able to enjoy forever. With such an understanding of the big picture, we can be realistic about the present, yet hopeful regarding the future (Romans 8:18-25). If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ and are living for Him, don't allow this dysfunctional world to discourage you into thinking that such a commitment isn't worth it. It is of ultimate value! God's promise of eternal life assures it. On that day, God will make your glass full and you will be able to enjoy it in all of its fullness, forever.

On the other hand, perhaps you have allowed this out-of-order existence to deceive you into thinking that a cynical approach toward life is best, one that leaves no room for a commitment to Christ. You're wrong! Please realize that in spite of present and outward appearances, a day is coming when you will have to stand before a holy and righteous God. Without Christ, the half-full glass that you have been enjoying will be emptied and you will endure that emptiness forever. God's judgment guarantees it. But that doesn't have to be your future. God's plan of salvation provides a way of escape from that otherwise inevitable judgment. It has been made available through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His redemptive work provides forgiveness of sin and eternal life as a free gift of God's grace to anyone who is willing to place their trust in Jesus Christ.

If you haven't yet made this decision of faith, it's not too late. Simply admit to God that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and that the greatest need of your life is to be forgiven of your sin. Then sincerely have a change of mind and heart as to who Jesus Christ truly is and what He accomplished for you when He died and rose again on your behalf. He is God the Son who became God the man, living a sinless life here on earth, which qualified Him to go to the Cross, so that through His death and resurrection, He would pay the penalty of sin for the entire human race, making forgiveness of sin and eternal life available to everyone. If you reach this point in your thinking about yourself, your greatest need and the person and work of Jesus Christ, then place your trust in Him, by asking Him to come into your life, so that He can become your personal Savior and Lord. I trust that any additional questions you may have about God's plan of salvation will be answered in our study of factor three: **We Reap What Christ Sowed**. In the meantime, you can also contact me through our website: <http://speakingtruthwithlove.com/> and I will do my best in providing the answers you need in order to make that all-important decision of faith.