

Dear Friendsties,

Hi there! Are you new here? You got company, I'm new here also. By the way, I'm Liit. I'm a sheep, a young one – a lamb as they would sing about us in Mary's



song. You know... the good ol' song: "Mary had a li'l..." You like singing? Me too – I sing a lot. Together with singing, one of my favorite pastime is just meditating on my great Shepherd. You know what I mean? You know... after some work and play, just sit back and mull over things in relation to my Teacher (that's how he's dubbed by some older sheep) You may not know what I mean, but "If ever you get to try it and you like doing it, you can't get over it," as my good ol' pals would say. I want us to get to know each other better but I want you to know early on that more than I want you to befriend me, I want you to be befriended with my master, my good Shepherd. So much for the introductions now. This regular column I have here (I don't know really how long I could stay here... let my Master have His pleasure.) is a by-product of my pals' musings. Here's the first one I got from my friend Chuvic:

Our Poor Choices of Pleasure

by Chuvic Monserate

When particles of any given substance are confined within a closed space (for example, inside a ball) they continue to be in motion bumping each other and constantly hitting the inner surface of their container. These particles are almost insignificantly small, yet their constant motion creates enough pressure against the inner surface of the ball and it could grow so strong that it is able to make the ball bounce.

This is an interesting scientific fact. But how is this fact relevant to us as living souls? This is relevant for we could be likened to those particles in the way we pursue what we want. We are those confined molecules constantly hitting the limits yet not really going anywhere. We bump on each other and go on with our affairs within an enclosed space – the surface of which is too opaque, we can't see through it. In the limits of our minds, in the triviality of our desires, the weakness of our capacities and in the poverty of our standards, we willingly turn our eyes from the things beyond our parochial concerns – the things that are incomparably important. We merely perceive things with their coatings, not realizing that we are constantly feeding ourselves with candy-coated poisons. We seek our pleasures from things that were once proven ineffective. We turn our eyes from the only One who could really fill our empty cups. We refuse to seek our highest pleasure in God and prefer the petty and meager amount of happiness that other things or even people can give. We are enclosed in the limits we set for ourselves and we don't dare go beyond the borders our ancestors have passed on to us.

Friends, we are sick. We lack taste. We choose the inferior kind of happiness. "We are far too easily pleased" as C.S. Lewis would say. But life is not meant to be just like that!

There are treasures to be sought after other than the big houses, great looks, fine partners, and cute kids. There is more to this life than boyfriends and girlfriends, sex and marriage, money and popularity. There are better things than these. These are good things but we should not settle ourselves with mere "good things". There are yet better pursuits in life– the best of which is the ultimate joy and satisfaction God offers to us. Let us not go on with our lives indifferent to the glory of God. Let us not walk on without being satisfied fully in God. He is the best. Apart from Him, life is dull, boring, and sad. Without the joy that knowing Him gives, we will all eventually wish to be evanescent; to be as the fog that vanishes into nothingness as the fierce sun approaches. We don't want to throw our only chances away. We live only once and our time here is short; but the way we spend our lives now will determine our status for eternity. The way we live now will either make us happy or fill us with remorse forever. Let us drink from the fountain of life God is offering in this vast desert of our confined life. Let us drink in that cool fountain and not dig ourselves broken cisterns that hold no water. Let us not lap on the sand in hope of satisfaction. There is no water in there. Unless we see God as our all in all, we cannot really enjoy anything in this world.

Do not think that you are fine when your life does not yet revolve around the glory of God. You can never be fine. You just have a dwarf standard of joy. But you can be happier. You can have the happiness that lasts only in God – the happiness of being attached to Him and not merely agreeing with others that there is a God that exists. Satan believes that there is a God too. If like Satan, we only believe that there is a God and not give our all to Him, what's different with us compared to the devil then? Nothing.

I urge you, therefore, to present your bodies as living sacrifices to Him. Come to God and never throw your youth away; never waste your life; and never squander your existence. We can be more than air particles inside a ball. We can be set free and the 'restlessness of our hearts', as Augustine calls it, can be satisfied. Set a higher standard and give the Best – namely, God, to yourself.

Chuvic is an incoming third year education student of the University of St. La Salle-Bacolod and is a member of Grace Baptist Church, Isio, Cauayan, Negros Occidental.

If you have some comments or suggestions to my column, email me in this address:

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**"Christian life
is enjoying God in everything
and enjoying everything in God."**

- CHARLES SIMEON (19th century theologian)