

On **August 1, 1929**, Thomas Edison held a statewide contest in New Jersey to select 49 fresh protégés. The exam included knowledge about science, math, geography, history, chemistry, and personal ethics. Among the many difficult questions was this one “What new discovery or invention do you believe would be the greatest benefit to mankind?”

Many great thinkers and pontificators have asked this question down through the ages, the answer is still illusive and thus, still pursued today. Maybe the better question to ask is why are the vast majority of people so dissatisfied? Why are people so unhappy?

When Edison’s question is broken down, we discover one of humanities greatest flaws, discontentment. Discontentment and/or dissatisfaction has plagued the human race from the inception of our existence.

Satan was the first to discover and then exploit this flaw when he accosted Eve in the Garden of Eden. With this tool, Satan enticed Eve to question God about His motives. Notice how easily Eve became seduced with discontentment when Satan convinced her God was holding out on her. Genesis 3:1-6 (NLT) *The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”* ² *“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied.* ³ *“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”* ⁴ **“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman.** ⁵ **“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”** ⁶ **The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it.**

Once Eve was convinced she was lacking something greater in her life she became dissatisfied; from that moment it became easy for her to directly disobey God’s commands. This pattern of selfish behavior became a trend among the human race. Selfishness continues to affect our relationship with God and others still today.

Eve’s discontentment made it easy for her to justify her actions. She began pursuing her own dreams and ambitions while disregarding and disobeying God’s commands. Her decision to rebel against God brought about irrevocable consequences. Immediately her sin brought separation, judgment and death upon her and the generations of people she would beget. This truth is found in Romans 5:19 *“Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners.”* This one act of disobedience burst asunder God’s perfect plan and will for His creation to live in perfect peace and harmony with Him and others.

Most Christians believe we should not engage in adultery, fornication, homosexuality, excessive debt, and other despicable acts. If this is true, why do so many people who claim to be Christians engage in these licentious sins? Could it be that the husband or wife who engages in adultery is dissatisfied with their mate? In II Samuel 11, we discover the story of King David committing adultery with Bathsheba. Why did he need to take his friend’s wife to lie with for sport? He had many wives and even more concubines! In spite of his success, David became dissatisfied with what he had; discontentment led to adultery and murder.

Why is homosexuality so prevalent today? Homosexuals are dissatisfied with God’s plan for pleasure and reproduction within the confines of marriage. According to Romans 1:18-32, homosexuals know what is natural. God has embedded His character throughout the natural world. The natural world exemplifies how God intended His creation to act and function. Our only purpose on this earth is to magnify the majesty and glory of our Creator by living in such a way that pleases Him.

Why is indebtedness an epidemic? Today, more people possess greater material goods than ever in the history of man; yet mostly, people in general are angrier, agitated and most of all dissatisfied with their life and possessions. Our insatiable appetite for material possessions grows unchecked every day leading us down a path of moral and financial ruin. Many subconsciously operate of the concept “get all you can and can all you get”. This concept of living out of our desire to possess the next best thing is driven by disillusionment and discontentment.

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God desires His creation to be happy. Paul states in Philippians 4:11 he had *learned* how to be content with whatever he had. Since to be selfish is normal to the natural man, we have to be taught how to be selfless and esteem others over ourselves. In Philippians 2:1-4, Paul writes... *“make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.”* ³ *Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.* ⁴ *Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”*

Peace is the antithesis to discontentment and disillusionment. Peace fulfills and completes us; it makes us content and full of joy. In Philippians 4:4-7, Paul explains how peace can rule our lives and make us satisfied no matter the circumstances. He writes, *“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!”* ⁵ *Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.* ⁶ *Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.* ⁷ *Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.* This formula for peace and contentment will only work when we discipline our lives to follow it.

So, to answer the question “What new discovery or invention do you believe would be the greatest benefit to mankind?” According to Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, “there is nothing new under the sun.” Our pursuit of the newest technology or product is only certain to bring with it more discontentment and disappointment.

What we should seek with all our hearts is God’s Kingdom. Within God’s Kingdom we will discover His righteousness and all the eternal blessings He has in store for those who diligently seek after Him. We will never be disappointed or become discontented with the gifts that come from above, for they are eternal. Amen!

May God continue to help us as we strive to pursue His Kingdom. May He give us the strength we need to resist the temptation to pursue the things of this world only to be disappointed and live a miserable existence.

With love from above,
Pastor Tim

Women on Mission

Coming Saturday, August 13th, is Backpacking Day! When back to school supplies come out, begin shopping for the school supplies such as pencils, pens, backpacks, glue sticks, rulers, colored pencils, pencil holders, notebook paper. This is our yearly event to pack over 100 backpacks to give to Afghan children along with our missionary, Tim F. Then bring items to church and place in the box provided. Saturday, August 13, we will have brunch and fun packing these backpacks and then praying over them. Then on Sunday, Tim F, and volunteers will deliver them. See Diane for any additional information.

Operation Christmas Child

Here is an opportunity for you to participate in making a child’s Christmas something special. Half a year is gone and we are still needing supplies for the shoe boxes. If you can’t or don’t want to go shopping you can give a donation. There are lots of people willing to go shopping. We also need funds for shipping. Each box costs \$7 to ship. Thank you for your help.

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy **Rank** - Chief
Assignment - Japan

Brandon Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Air Force
Assignment - Tucson, Arizona

Megan Hines - USNA - Pastor Tim’s Daughter
MIDN - **Megan Hines**
1 Wilson Rd.
P.O. Box 12610
Annapolis, Maryland 21412



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Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Morning Worship 10:45 am



August Calendar

- 3rd - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm
- 8th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 10th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm
- 13th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am
- 17th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm
- 22nd - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 24th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm
- 25th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm
- 27th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am
- 31st - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm

Happy Birthday

- 2nd - Cindyann Lucas
- 10th - Robbie Currie
- 10th - Jane Thornell
- 17th - Janie Huffman
- 24th - Al Thornell
- 29th - Joy Lee

Happy Anniversary

- 4th - Chad & Shirlene Nickerson
- 10th - Mike & Barbara Trimble
- 18th - Bob & Caryl Shaw
- 28th - Ambrosio & Ofelia Agbayani
- 28th - Charles & Diane Varady



First Southern Baptist Church
Newsletter

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Pastor: Tim Hines

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FAMILY REUNION

EBBA FELLOWSHIP DAY

Come join us for a day of fellowship, family, and fun!

When: Saturday , August 27th
 11am-3pm

Where: EBBA Ministry Center
 1221 Pacific Ave.
 San Leandro, CA 94587



*There's something for
 the entire family!*

There will be food, games,
 movies, and more!

Featuring Movies:

*War Room and
 Miracles from Heaven*

