

False Advertising

With the Federal Elections upon us we are only too aware of false advertising. We have been deluged with false advertising in the past months! But false advertising, 'promising us the world', is not confined to our Elections. The Christian Church has its entrepreneurs of false advertising marketing the gospel as the panacea for all human problems. While the gospel is the answer to all our problems, we should not get the impression that the gospel will solve all our problems *'in this world'*! So often the impression is created that the gospel is all about 'earthly satisfaction', with 'eternal salvation' attached as an addendum! Such 'false advertising' is not an accurate reading of the New Testament gospel. Matthew Henry sets the record straight when he says, commenting on the experience God's people in the days of Habakkuk:

" He (Habakkuk) resolves to delight and triumph in God notwithstanding; when all is gone his God is not gone (Hab 3:18): "Yet will I rejoice in the Lord; I shall have him to rejoice in, and will rejoice in him." .. But those who, when they were full, enjoyed God in all, when they are emptied and impoverished can enjoy all in God, and can sit down upon a melancholy heap of the ruins of all their creature comforts and even then can sing to the praise and glory of God, as the God of their salvation. This is the principal ground of our joy in God, that he is the God of our salvation, our eternal salvation, the salvation of the soul; and, if he be so, we may rejoice in him as such in our greatest distresses, since by them our salvation cannot be hindered, but may be furthered. Note, Joy in God is never out of season, nay, it is in a special manner seasonable when we meet with losses and crosses in the world, that it may then appear that our hearts are not set upon these things, nor our happiness bound up in them. See how the prophet triumphs in God: The Lord God is my strength, Hab 3:19. He that is the God of our salvation in another world will be our strength in this world, to carry us on in our journey thither, and help us over the difficulties and oppositions we meet with in our way."

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