

Happiness Is

No. 74

Introduction.

- I. Today I would like to speak on the theme "Happiness Is." Happiness is a universal desire of man. Every man, woman, and child desires to be happy.
- II. **Often today we read and hear**, "Happiness is owning a new home or automobile or giant screen TV or some other material possession. Happiness is drinking Dr. Pepper or Coca Cola or eating chocolate pie."
 - A. I suppose that all of these things may bring us a measure of temporary happiness, but they will not give us true and lasting happiness.
 - B. They will not bring us the happiness that Paul said surpasses human understanding. There are many people who possess all these things and much more who are miserable and have no peace and happiness in their lives.
- I. **God Is Our Father** - Happiness is knowing that God is our Father.
 - A. Many have a **false idea about God** in the world today. Many people who have not studied their Bibles, glibly talk about the "Fatherhood of God," inferring that God is the spiritual Father of all people.
 1. Yet **John 1:12** says, "As many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God."
 2. Only those who have received Christ are children of God. All men are children of God in the creative sense, but not all in a redemptive sense.
 - B. **It is certainly happiness to know** that we are children of the great God of heaven.
 1. It is happiness to know that he **loves us with all His heart**. It is happiness to know that we can always **call on Him** and that He is always ready to pour out his blessings upon us. It is happiness to know that He **cares for us more tenderly than any earthly father** cares for us, and makes all things work together for good.
 2. It is no wonder the psalmist said. (Psa. 144:15b.)
- II. **Christ Is Our Savior** - Happiness is knowing that Christ is our Savior.
 - A. **A missionary was once speaking to a group of fisherman**. He tried to tell them what Christ's death on the cross meant. At the end of his message he asked the question, "Will you tell me in your own words what Christ did when He died on the cross?" One old man, with tears coursing down his cheeks, said, "I just now saw what He did. He swapped places with men. He took my place on the cross and left me here, a sinner saved by grace."
 - B. **Yes, Jesus swapped places with us**. He died in our stead. He took the beating we deserve. (Isa. 53:5, 6).
 1. On the cross He became the Savior of all who will turn from sin and accept His call and atonement.
 2. There is nothing in the whole world that surpasses the feeling of knowing that Christ is our personal

Savior. The Christian can shout, "Jesus is my Savior, He is my Lord, He is my all and all. What a glorious, wondrous, marvelous feeling.

III. **The Holy Spirit Dwells In Us** - Happiness is knowing the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

A. Peter said. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13, 14).

1. **Some time back two sisters died together in Belmont, California.** One of them was 84 years of age, the other was 75. The younger sister had the mind of a child and she always called her sister, "mother." She begged her never to leave her. They were always together. They went from one rest home to another. The time came when the older knew that the younger one would have to go to a sanitarium. They would then be separated for the first time in their lives. The younger sister sobbed out, "You won't leave me, will you mother?" And the older sister replied, "Of course not. I told you that we would never be separated." They went for a walk in the garden and the next morning both of their bodies were found there, with a bullet through their heads.

2. The older sister had killed the younger one and herself so that they would never be separated.

B. Now human beings may resort to such horrible measures to stay together, but the Christian has no such problem with regard to the Holy Spirit.

1. He knows that the Bible says the Spirit dwells in him as a gift. He knows the Spirit dwells in him as an incentive to holiness. He knows the Holy Spirit dwells in him as a sign of his sonship and as a pledge of his resurrection.

2. He knows the Spirit will never leave him as long as he abides in the will of God.

IV. **We Have The Bible As Our Guide** - Happiness is knowing that we have the Bible as our guide.

A. If we were going to drive tomorrow a distant city where we had never been, we would want a road map to guide us.

1. Well, the Bible is the guidebook from doom to glory, from earth to heaven, from darkness to light through all the dark valleys of life.

2. **Paul** said. (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

B. Listen to what the writer of the 119th psalm said about the Bible - God's word, the truth.

PSA 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.

PSA 119:16 I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

PSA 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.

PSA 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors.

PSA 119:29 Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Thy law.

PSA 119:33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.

PSA 119:44 So I will keep Thy law continually, Forever and ever.

PSA 119:46 I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings, And shall not be ashamed.

PSA 119:48 And I shall lift up my hands to Thy commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Thy statutes.

PSA 119:89 Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.

PSA 119:93 I will never forget Thy precepts, For by them Thou hast revived me.

PSA 119:97 O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

PSA 119:103 How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

PSA 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

PSA 119:112 I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes Forever, even to the end.

PSA 119:127 Therefore I love Thy commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold.

PSA 119:129 Thy testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them.

PSA 119:131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Thy commandments.

PSA 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Thy law is truth.

V. Having Friends - Happiness is having friends.

- A. Someone has said that, “A friend is one who knows all about you and still loves you.”
 - 1. Another has said that “A friend is one who comes in when all the world goes out.”
 - 2. Solomon said, “...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Prov. 18:24).
 - 3. **There are not many people who live up to these definitions.** A man is fortunate indeed if he has a friend.
- B. **Erma Bombeck** once wrote on the topic if I had my life to live over. She said “I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.” This was her simple, but profound way of emphasizing the value of friends.
- B. **Someone asked a prominent person**, “What is the secret of your life?” And the answer came back, “I have a friend.”
 - 1. Surely many people have reached the pinnacle of fame, fortune and happiness because they had a friend who helped them along the way.
 - 2. **We can’t have too many real friends!** We can’t afford to lose even one! We should give diligence to be the best possible friend to others.

VI. Helping Others - Happiness is helping others.

- A. The man who goes through the world without helping others is infinitely poor and does not know true happiness. One of the greatest joy and thrills of life is to know that we have helped someone else and made their life brighter and more enjoyable.
- B. **Three wise men** were discussing the question, “**What is the greatest evil that can befall humanity?**” One answered, “**Old age** oppressed by poverty.” Another answered, “**Pain** without patience.” But the third wisely answered, “The **couch of death** and no good deeds to light the way.”
 - 1. That is indeed a great tragedy, to come to the end of the way and look back to see that we have wasted a life that could have been spent in the service of the Savior.
 - 2. Happiness here and in eternity comes only to those who give it to others.

VII. **Knowing We Have A Home Waiting For Us At The End Of The Way** - Happiness is knowing that we have a home waiting for us at the end of the way.

A. **Some people who were here a year ago are gone now.** Some of us who are here now likely will not be living a year from now. But if we know Christ all is well. We have a home waiting for us at the end of the way, where all will be perfect. Jesus has prepared us a perfect home that is more beautiful and more peaceful and more joyous than we can imagine or comprehend.

B. **Robert Louis Stevenson** was seriously ill most of his life, but he kept on giving the world some of its greatest literature. Instead of giving up, he took these words as his motto: **“Cling to what is left. Make the best of what remains.”**

1. I do not know how much longer you and I have, but I would like to suggest a similar motto, **“Cling to God. Give Him your best service the balance of your days.”** This attitude will be blessed with an eternal home at the end of the way.

2. This prayer ought to be on the heart of every Christian.

Write Thy name on my head
That I may think for Thee;
Write Thy name on my lips
That I may speak for Thee;
Write Thy name on my feet
That I may walk with and for Thee;
Write Thy name on my hands
That I may work with and for Thee;
Write Thy name on my ears
That I may listen for Thee.

Write Thy name on my heart
That I may love Thee;
Write Thy name on my shoulders
That I may bear loads for Thee;
Write Thy name on my eyes
That I may see for Thee;
Write Thy name all over me
That I may be wholly Thine -
always and everywhere.

Conclusion.

I. Sometime back I read **about a preacher who had a long siege of sickness** and the doctors feared that he would die. After a long time and many prayers, he was on the road to recovery. When he was able to leave the house, he went down to the drug store and asked the druggist, “How much do I owe you?” The druggist replied, “You were sick a long time and your bill is a large one.” Then he told the preacher the amount. The preacher said, “I can’t pay you now, but I will as soon as I can.” He started out the door with a heavy heart, but the druggist called him back. He said to the preacher, “But look at the last page.” And on the page he saw the words, “Paid in full.” “Yes,” said the druggist, “a good friend of yours came in and paid it all.” With gratitude in his heart the preacher left the store, but he said his soul was singing another song. He said, “I was thinking of another debt, the debt of sin. I was remembering that Jesus paid that debt in full and I was free.”

II. **Oh, Jesus paid the debt of sin for us.** He went to the cross and died that we might escape the lake of fire to come. If we will accept Him, He will free us from the penalty of sin, put joy in our hearts and set our feet on the pathway to glory. Come and confess your faith in Him and be buried with Him in baptism for the remission of sins! Come now as we stand and sing the song of invitation!

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