

HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN HOLINESS

At the age of thirty she looked like a person of sixty. Her face showed the results of sleepless nights, the sins of immorality and drug use. She was a classic loser, and had tried to take her life several times. With tears running down her face, she asked, “Why can’t I be happy and have peace of mind like other people?” This story is not new. It rings throughout our nation and the world.

Happiness, as a general rule, is the quest of all people. But in reality it is an elusive gem rarely found by the majority. The reason it is elusive is because of the places people look to find it. The banker finds it in his acquired fortune; a soldier in his glory of triumph; the poet in the applause of the people; the lawyer in wealth and reputation; the doctor in his punctual performance of his duties.

What is happiness? What comes to mind when you think of happiness? How would you define the word? Webster defines happiness, a noun form of happy, as “a felling of great pleasure, contentment, glad, pleased.” The Greek word for “happy” (or blessed KJV) is makarios. This word was originally used to describe the condition of the gods as opposed to the condition of men. In Christianity it was used to describe the spiritual position, which men enjoyed through Christ. It is, as Peter stated, “a joy unspeakable.”

Happiness is an inner state of being. It is a peace that passeth all understanding. It’s a calmness and assurance given ONLY by God and His word. Happiness comes from being right with God (cf. Matthew 5:1-12). The wise man said, “He that giveth heed unto the word shall find good; and whoso trusteth in Jehovah, happy is he” (Proverbs 16:20). “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help. . .” (Psalm 146:5). And according to

our text, “Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.” (Psalm 144:15).

Holiness (and its different forms), on the other hand, deals with that which pertains to God. This is because God’s intrinsic nature is that of holiness. The contrast to holy is profane, like the woman mentioned above. Therefore, that which has been dedicated to God is not to be used in any profane way.

Man, then, in search for happiness, must turn to God “...happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.” Let us examine what is comprehended in this relationship. First of all, in just knowing we have been accepted by God as one of His children through our obedience to His divine plan for the redemption of our sin sick souls (Rom. 6:18-19). Knowing that His mercy and grace have been extended to us and has delivered us from both the guilt and misery of immorality (Titus 2:11; 3:5). Knowing that His wisdom has been given through His word that our ignorance might be removed and that we might be guided through the intricate mazes of this world (I Corinthians 1:18-25). Knowing the omnipresence of God, we survey every possible condition of our life every day (Hebrews 4:13). Knowing that faithfulness is ours to perform and in doing so the “crown of life” is ours to win (Revelation 2:10). Knowing that because we have been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27), we have every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Knowing that in Him we are assured of finding a refuge in every time of need (Psalm 46:1). Knowing that in Him we have a friend that sticketh closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

How mistaken the man of the world is in respect to the “people of God.” There is no true happiness outside of being God’s people. Surely the Psalmist was picturing a

nation whose every citizen was animated by the love of God, a community in which each separate soul was governed and guided by the wisdom, which is from above. A people in which there was no discord between their duties and their desires, no disproportion and no inequity between the functions of the flesh and those of the mind and spirit (Romans 12:1-2). In other words, this would be a “holy nation” of people (1 Peter 2:9).

It would be in this holiness that man would find happiness. As a child in any of our families in our congregations can only be happy by being docile and obedient to the wise and benevolent guidance of a godly father, or to the tender love of a gentle and saintly mother, we all acknowledge that the highest good of the soul can be a reality only by being reverent and truthful towards Him who is the Father of us all, in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).

Why does happiness elude many? Because they fail to understand its true source. God is the giver of true happiness; the Bible is the guidebook to happiness; and the mind of man is the chooser. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). Happiness is found in being able to come into the presence of God as a holy people (Exodus. 19:22).

John Daniel from Vigil

“Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.”
Proverbs 28:14

BIRTHDAYS

Joy Parish, 04-23; Jeremy Gragg, 04-24

ILL

Sunday: Susan Cotterill (AM); Millie Robertson (PM); Steven Schleif.

Wednesday: Janice & Jennifer Carter.

Ralph Franklin is in Room D9 at the Evergreen Center.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

George Thomas was in Minnesota on Wednesday night. Monica Nemechek was out of town on Wednesday night. We are thankful for the return of John and Barbara James.

LADIES DAY

The ladies will host a Ladies Day on Saturday April 24, 2010 with Becky Boyd of the Blue Springs congregation as the speaker. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Bill Goring of the Chipman Road congregation in Lee's Summit will be held on April 25-29, 2010. Mark your calendars now for these dates, plan to be here, and invite some others to come with you for each assembly.

MEETING DINNER

Our Pot Luck Dinner will be moved up to April 25 to coincide with our Gospel Meeting. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the great food and company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 43; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 24.

Those To Serve

April 18, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (2)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... George Thomas
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER..... Stanley Anderson
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 21st

SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek
INVITATION Joel Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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