

## HAPPINESS

\* Note source of original notes at the end of this document. They were modified for presentation to my congregation.

1. Definition:
  - A. Happiness is a mental attitude of well being which is minus worry, fear, and antagonism toward the prosperity of others.
  - B. The Hebrew words ASHEREY and TOB tell us that it's an awareness of the great values of what God has deposited in the soul.
  - C. Happiness has three sources: Ascetic happiness, lasciviousness happiness, and divine happiness from the character of God.
2. Asceticism happiness is soul pleasure or a sense of well being through observing the laws of divine establishment: love of marriage partner, Ecclesiastes 9:9; Psalm 89:15; love of nation, family life, freedom.
3. Lasciviousness happiness is soul pleasure or a sense of well being under mental system of lawlessness, or violation of the laws of divine establishment, 1 Peter 4:3; adultery "turns them on."
4. Divine happiness is soul pleasure or a sense of well being through the presence of the Word of God which is resident in the right lobe when the filling of the Holy Spirit is a reality, Galatians 5:22-23.
5. Ascetic happiness is available to unbelievers and believers alike, based on their ability to appreciate divine establishment and respect law. Ecclesiastes 9:9-10, man and woman can have happiness in each other. Psalm 89:15 shows a happiness that comes from military victory.
  - A. False happiness distorted is when there is empty boasting in what human good and evil provide for you, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15.
  - B. Big labor is happy when they win a contract over management making more money and having more privileges.
  - C. Senators who vote against increased military spending are happy when they win; they get what they want but put the nation in jeopardy.

- D. Isaiah 5:20, “Woe to them who call evil good, and good evil.”
6. Lasciviousness happiness occurs in unbelievers and believers when they succumb to the lust patterns of the old sin nature, Roman 1:29-32.
- A. Lawlessness, distortion of truth, self-gratification.
- B. Their happiness depends upon their feeding a lust pattern of the old sin nature. They are under a curse for they are slaves to lust which must be constantly fed. Proverbs 30:15, Jeremiah 2:21.
7. All happiness related to the old sin nature has a curse in it and is tied into the frantic search for happiness, Malachi 2:1; 1 Corinthians 16:22; James 4:16.
- A. The curse relates to the old sin nature in that it cannot be satisfied.
- B. Ascetic trends pull against the lascivious trends in your body and this causes restlessness in the person.
- C. As these trends change what once pleased you today may not please you tomorrow. A lascivious person will desire to do some good once in a while to help pay back society for his conduct.
- D. After producing some human good to make himself feel good he will eventually move back into his lascivious trend again.
8. Divine happiness is available to believers only. This happiness is based on the desires of the soul when it is controlled by the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine, Psalm 89:16; Psalm 31:7-8; John 17:13; 1 John 1:4.
- A. The believer in fellowship being led by the Word of God pursues the desires of God for his life.
- B. The carnal believer will pursue desires of the old sin nature either ascetic or lascivious.
- C. Example of ascetic trend: Finding joy when someone in adultery or drunkenness gets caught, their husband or wife finds out, “I hope they get theirs.” There is nothing wrong with desiring to see justice done, but when it becomes a comparison between you and that person, then it is human good. “I would never have done that.” This is a false sense of well being from the ascetic trend.

9. The issue of doctrine is to establish new desires in the soul by the daily intake of doctrine, Psalm 33:4-5; Proverbs 8:34-36.
10. You can't understand happiness unless you relate it to the desires of the soul.
  - A. Eve desired the tree of human good and evil, Genesis 3:6.
  - B. Solomon desired many wives, 2 Chronicles 11:23.
  - C. Evil ones desire the fulfillment of their plans, Psalm 10:2-5.
  - D. A reversionist desires God's blessings but rejects God's purpose for their lives, Amos 5:18 "Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light."
  - E. Doctrine applied enables a Pastor-Teacher to become aware of his gift and builds his desire to fulfill it. 1 Timothy 3:1.
11. Of the three happinesses, divine happiness is the greatest.
  - A. The other two, lasciviousness and asceticism, can be destroyed by circumstances:
    - 1) Happiness of freedom can be destroyed by slavery.
    - 2) Happiness of marriage is destroyed by divorce.
    - 3) Happiness of lawlessness is lost as the person becomes a slave to the old sin nature's lusts; self-induced misery, "Lust-a-holic".
  - B. There are five areas of divine happiness:
    - 1) Spiritual blessings and occupation with Christ.
    - 2) Divine establishment blessings, you can enjoy the divine institutions.
    - 3) Blessings associated with a Greater Grace 2 believer.
    - 4) Historical blessings—salt principle.
    - 5) Dying blessings through dying grace.
12. Divine happiness can be a strength in the soul, Nehemiah 8:10.
  - A. Psalm 119:25, the Psalmist continues to have his happiness with the Lord while others around him moan and complain.

- B. His attitude depends upon the Lord, not on those around him. When people's desires cannot be fulfilled then they complain (asceticism/lasciviousness).
- C. The believer who depends upon the Word of God will find true lasting happiness in life.
- D. A great blessing in life is to be able to fill your own capacity for life from the doctrine ALREADY PRESENT IN YOUR SOUL.

PRINCIPLE: You become occupied with the object of your strength.

13. The maintenance of divine happiness through a time of great pressure is based on a few simple principles.
  - A. There must be a volitional acceptance of pressure as a means of glorifying Christ in your life at that time.
  - B. We must willingly accept pressure for our spiritual promotion. We don't ask why others do not appear to have the same pressures we have.
  - C. The key is having the attitude of Christ, who controls our own personal history based on our attitude towards Him and His Word. He also will determine how long the pressure will last.
  - D. Never allow the persons or enemies involved in causing you pressure to distract you from God's purpose and will for your life.
  - E. We must maintain a desire for the expression of divine viewpoint. We must be focused upon spiritual desires. The pressure is temporary and must be dealt with God's eternal truths.
  - F. Divine viewpoint expressed becomes the application of the divine happiness to our experiences, Romans 15:32. This is the way we pass our tests and handle the pressures of life.
  - G. The believer must stay filled with the Holy Spirit and concentrate, meditate, on doctrine and promises to pass his test.
14. The Beatitudes describe the divine characteristics of happiness for believers in the Millennium which can be applied to us now, Matthew 5:3-11.

Verse 3, “Blessed” means “Happiness” - Grace may make you helpless so that God can supply you with more understanding of Him. We cannot supply anything for ourselves without grace. Greater Grace believers do not work for salvation and they do not work for blessing. They rely upon grace for fulfillment.

Verse 4, Happiness to the mature believer under grief is called comfort. The believer has a quiet satisfaction in his soul even when grief and pressure are attacking his soul. Desire to be stabilized; this is what Psalm 119:28 is all about.

Verse 5, The desire to see crime punished, principle of turning the other cheek in the Millennium and allowing God to handle criminals. The desire is to respect God’s authority and inherit blessing.

Verse 6, The desire for a positive desire for doctrine

Verse 7, The desire to help others in the Millennium so God gives power and supply to do so.

Verse 8, The desire to see Christ not only as King of Israel, but to see Him as Eternal God as well. We see God in our minds by knowing God’s Word.

Verse 9, The desire to give clear presentation of the gospel in the Millennium.

Verse 10, The advancing believer will have opposition in his life.

15. The relationship of intensified happiness to the believer in Greater Grace in Matthew 5:11-16 applied to Psalm 119 youth.

Verse 11, Persecution, heaping insults on the believer who stands against the evil in his day. He becomes unpopular for saying “NO” to sin. The Psalm 119 youth refused to allow the soldiers insults to distract him from truth.

Verse 12, Intensified happiness with rewards to the believer who gives out God’s viewpoint when challenged by evil. The Psalm 119 youth continued to stand for Christ and remained happy even though he was in great suffering.

Verse 13, Salt-less Jews of Psalm 119 were walked on but the Psalm 119 youth helped preserve doctrine by holding onto it.

Verse 14, Only the mature believer is the light of the world. God sets him on a pedestal for all the world to see. The Psalm 119 youth was the light that others

saw while on the death march to Babylon. He was their source of hope.

Verse 15, The mature believer is able to give light to others and that is why Satan hates him.

Verse 16, When a believer begins to stand for truth then he will receive the same antagonism that the Lord received ( John 15:18-20). The greater the pressure then the greater the happiness he receives from the doctrine in his soul. Former happiness from asceticism (religious practices and self-righteousness) and lasciviousness (sinful behavior) cannot make him happy.

16. The intensification of happiness is related to our growth from maturity to maximum glorification of grace, Romans 5:2.
  - A. The application of divine happiness to the soul gives the soul refreshment and a blessing for those who observe it.
  - B. In a tragedy situation the believer is able to sense the comfort from the Word of God that he has stored in his soul.
  - C. The Psalm 119 youth is no phony. He is using doctrine to keep advancing Spiritually when under pressure.
  - D. He demonstrates his inner peace with a calm outward appearance.

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