

## Doctrine of Happiness

1. David Hume in one of his essays has written, "the great end of all human industry, is the attainment of happiness. For this were the arts invented, sciences cultivated, laws ordained, and societies modeled, by the most profound wisdom of patriots and legislators."

2. Contrary to many humped shouldered Christians walking around suffering for Jesus or so they think, we are to be happy and rejoice in Him. As we have just read in Joh 15:11, Jesus, our prototype, was happy and so should we be also.

3. We indeed are commanded to share the happiness of God.

John 15:11

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my happiness might remain in you, and that your joy and happiness might be full."

4. Jesus later in His farewell address to His disciples gave us the example.

John 17:13

"And now come I to you; and these things I speak in the world that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

5. It is therefore understandable that a subject so important to mankind is one well and often treated in Scripture.

6. Happiness has been defined as ... "the agreeable sensation which springs from the enjoyment of good: the state of being in which one's desires are gratified by the enjoyment of pleasure without pain, remorse, guilt or regret."

6.1 Notice the application of 1Jo 1:9 to happiness, without remorse or guilt. The Holy Spirit isolates the sin, we name the sin, we forget the sin and we move on to greater things and the fulfillment of our divine destiny.

7. The Scriptural concept of happiness:

7.1 There is a minus Happiness which represents blessing from Satan. Satan, as the ruler of this world, has the power to provide a pseudo-happiness for both the believer and the unbeliever. Usually Satan provides his minus happiness to motivate people to do his will.

7.2 This minus happiness evaporates quickly because Satan is not interested in making people happy; as a fact Satan is incompetent and can't sustain his own happiness much

less those who serve him. This minus happiness is available to believers who are under the influence of evil.

7.3 This minus happiness does not sustain in times of catastrophe or pressure. It is important to note however that even the acts of Satan and certainly his subalterns are under the permissive will of God and all things for the believer AND unbeliever work for "good." Rom 8:28

7.4 There is what we might call neutral Happiness which comes from the recognition and compliance with establishment principles. There is a happiness which comes from obeying establishment rules.

8. The divine institutions such as volition, marriage, family and nationalism provide a road map for prosperity and happiness for those in a client nation. Unbelievers can even participate in this type of neutral happiness.

8.1 Marriage to the right man/woman as well as employment can also bring happiness to both believer and unbeliever.

Ecc 9:9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun--all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

Ecc 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

Ecc 9:11 I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

9. There is a + Happiness which is sharing the Happiness of God by the intake of the Word under the filling of the Spirit. This can be said another way "it is developing capacity in the soul" as we mature spiritually.

Psa 23:5-6 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my *capacity* cup for *righteousness, blessing and testing* runneth over.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

9.1 Psa 144:15 tells us that "Happy are the people of whom this is true; happy are the people whose God is their Lord".

10. Hebrew Etymology:

10.1 In the Hebrew there is a word **Asher** which means "the state of happiness".

Gen 30:13 And Leah said, "**Happy**" am I, for the daughters will call me "**blessed**": and she called his name "**Asher**."

10.2 There is a Hebrew word **Samach** meaning to rejoice.

Pro 13:9 The light of the righteous "**rejoiceth**:" but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

10.3 There is an interesting Hebrew word **Gil** which means to dance around in a state of rejoicing.

Pro 23:24 The father of the righteous shall "**greatly rejoice**:" and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy (**Samach**) of him.

11. Greek Etymology:

11.1 The primary Greek word for happiness is **Makarios** and it is often in the KJV translated "blessed" or "blessedness" respectively. The NIV translates the noun/adjective as joy or happiness.

Mat 5:3 **Blessed** are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:4 **Blessed** are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Mat 5:5 **Blessed** are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Mat 5:6 **Blessed** are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Mat 5:7 **Blessed** are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Luk 1:45 And **blessed** is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Luk 1:48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me **blessed**.

Jam 5:10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

Jam 5:11 Behold, we count them "**happy**" which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is full of compassion and tender mercy.

Rom 4:6 Even as David also describeth the "**blessedness**" of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Rom 4:7 Saying, "**Blessed**" are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Rom 4:8 "**Blessed**" is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Rom 4:9 Cometh this "**blessedness**" then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

Gal 4:13 As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you.

Gal 4:14 Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

Gal 4:15 What has happened to all your **joy**? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.

12. Happiness comes to parents when the kids turn out all right.

Pro 23:23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Pro 23:24 The father of a righteous man has **great joy**; he who has a wise son delights in him.

Pro 23:25 May your father and mother **be glad**; may she who gave you birth **rejoice!**

13. A nation positive to the Lord will have happy and prosperous citizens.

Psa 89:8 O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you ...

Psa 89:15 **Happy** are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

Psa 89:16 They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness.

Psa 89:17 For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor prosper economically.

14. A nation used of God to discipline those who abuse Israel shall find happiness.

Psa 137:8 O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us--

Psa 137:9 he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.

15. There is a special happiness after discipline and testing provided we faint not at the reproach of God.

Psa 30:5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Psa 30:11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

16. There is a special rejoicing for the mature believer even though they suffer as part of their special proof testing.

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1Pe 1:7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1Pe 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Phi 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh--

Phi 3:4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

Phi 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

Phi 3:6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Phi 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

Phi 3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Phi 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

17. Happy is the man who finds wisdom.

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding,

Pro 3:14 for wisdom is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

Pro 3:15 Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

Pro 3:16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

Pro 3:17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

Pro 3:18 Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be happy.

18. John says "I wrote 1st John that you might be happy.

1Jo 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

19. Happy and blessed are those who show kindness to those in need.

Pro 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

20. God promises special blessing and happiness to the person who is positive to the Word; it would seem even greater blessing flows to those who follow His instructions with reference to being slow to anger, calm and without destructive reaction.

Pro 16:20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

Pro 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

Pro 16:22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

Pro 16:23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

Pro 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

21. There is a special happiness to those who fear and respect the Lord.

Psa 128:1 Happy are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.

Psa 128:2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Psa 128:3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.

Psa 128:4 Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

21.1 Said another way: "sharing God's happiness comes from using God's Grace Apparatus for the Perception of Doctrine".

22.2 Sharing God's happiness is a potential given at moment of regeneration but only comes to those who GAP it to maturity.

Pro 16:20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

Pro 16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

Pro 16:22 Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.

Pro 16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

Pro 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

22. There is a special happiness given to those who suffer for righteousness sake.

1Pe 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

23. Now let's see how happiness relates to the Essence of God:

23.1 God is perfect and His character is perfect.

23.2 Perfect character must possess perfect happiness.

23.3 God is eternal and His happiness is eternal.

23.4 God is immutable so His happiness never changes.

23.5 God is omniscient so His genius devises perfect happiness.

23.6 God found a way from His omniscience and His sovereignty to share with mankind His happiness.

23.7 It is then impossible for God to be unhappy.

28. God Himself is said to rejoice in our salvation.

Psa 9:14 That I may show forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

29. We are commanded to rejoice in the Lord.

Psa 97:12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

30. The happiness or blessed of the Sermon on the Mount have primary application to the Kingdom but secondary application to our age. Mat 5:3-14

31. The principles of happiness in summary:

31.1 You cannot build your happiness on someone else's unhappiness.

31.2 You cannot build your happiness on the details of life; things or success will only provide short term episodic happiness at best.

31.3 You cannot build your happiness on perfect environment.

31.4 You cannot build your happiness on people.

31.5 You cannot build your happiness on revolution or anti-establishment thinking.

31.6 You cannot build your happiness on carnality or evil.

31.7 Lasting happiness can only be built on the plan of God for your very own life.

31.8 Said another way happiness can only be built on spiritual growth.