

The Happiness Handbook

John 8:31-32; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 3-12-2023

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

– John 8:31-32

If the Bible isn't important to you in your daily life,
then you are pursuing your happiness in the dark.

My Bible Confession

This is my Bible.

It is God's Word.

It is true!

It is enough!

It tells me about God

And me

And what Jesus did for us

And God's promises to us

And how to love!

By God's grace,

I will trust it,

And I will obey it,

So I can be happy in God!

The Theological Question: Does God really want us to be happy?

Rejoice always – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

God is love and love always pursues the happiness of the loved.

The Practical Question: How are we to pursue happiness?

Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. – Psalm 37:4

Every person pursues their own happiness but there is only one right way to do so.

God has told us the truth we need to know to be happy.

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. – John 17:17

Sin keeps us from happiness and the root of all sin is unbelief.

So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. – Hebrews 3:19

The Truth that Sets Free

- *God is the Supreme Good* who created us to be holy and happy in His love. - Psalm 16:11
- *Man is an idol worshiper* who naturally pursues that which will never make him happy, but only leads to misery and death. - Romans 1:25
- *Jesus is the double cure* who delivers us from the penalty and power of sin to save us from sin and satisfy us in God. - Romans 5:10-11
- *Faith is trust in the promises* that rests in Jesus for pardon and perfection and hopes in God for help and happiness. - Hebrews 11:1, 6
- *Love is the obedience of faith* that submits to God's Word and God's will because of God's promise of perfect love and future happiness. - Hebrews 11:8, 24-26
- *God is sovereign over all* so that nothing can keep God from keeping His promise of perfect love and future happiness. - Romans 8:28
- *Jesus is a willing Savior for all* so that nothing can keep someone from finding their happiness in God through Jesus except their own refusal to come to God for mercy in Jesus. - Matthew 11:28-29

Ignorance is a Killer

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. – Hosea 4:6a

Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. – Jeremiah 3:15

Truth and Perseverance

But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance. – Luke 8:15

We need to interpret life in light of God's Word/truth in order to persevere in the way to the kingdom of heaven.

Know Truth, Know God

The ultimate goal of knowing the truth is to know God in whom our happiness lies. – Jeremiah 9:23-24

Are you trusting God's promise?

***He who gives attention to the Word will find good,
And blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.
– Proverbs 16:20***