

HAPPINESS

A CONSTANT SEARCH

- POWER, PLEASURES
- POSSESSIONS, KNOWLEDGE
- POPULARITY, HEALTH
- WHERE, TO BE FOUND?

The lesson this morning, is "**Happiness, A Constant Search**".

It is right, it meets God's approval, to be **HAPPY**,
As the Bible emphasis those that can,

- "LOVE life, and see GOOD days," (1Pet.3:10a)
- We can, "Rejoice evermore." (1Thess.5:16)

Saints have HAPPINESS; Others hurry about, searching.
Few worldly people find it, or keep it.

- "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful;
and the end of that, mirth is heaviness." (Prov.14:13)

People have tried many ways to achieve happiness:

I. Such as, **POWER OF AUTHORITY OVER OTHERS**

A. Biographies Show this is Not the Answer

(Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, Alexander the Great; Many modern political, and financial power brokers).

B. Experience and Revelation Show, it Does Not Last

- "Thus saith the Lord, ...neither let the mighty man glory in his might," (Jer.9:23b)

People have tried many ways to achieve happiness:

II. Such as, **PLEASURES OF THE WORLD**

A. The shadow of Pleasure, becomes a dry cistern, a living death

- "she that Liveth in PLEASURE, is DEAD while she liveth." (1Tim.5:6)

Pleasures of the World,

B. Must Be Rejected

The Bible says that those who are,

- "traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of PLEASURES more than lovers of God;
5 having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such Turn AWAY." (2Tim.3:4-5)
- "For AS the crackling of thorns under a pot,
so is the LAUGHTER of the Fool: this also is VANITY." (Ecc.7:6)

C. The English Poet, Lord Byron, Lived a Life of Tremendous Pleasure

...but at age 37 he wrote:

- "The worm, the canker, and the GRIEF are mine alone."

People have tried many ways to achieve happiness,

III. Such as, **WEALTH AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS.**

A. These are right if they are used properly

The Bible says,

- “Charge them that are **RICH** in this world, that they be **NOT** highminded, **NOR** trust in uncertain riches, but **(Trust) in the LIVING God, Who Giveth us RICHLY all things to ENJOY;**
¹⁸ that they **DO good**, that they **BE RICH** in good works, **READY** to distribute, **WILLING** to communicate;
¹⁹ laying up in store for themselves, a **GOOD foundation** against the time to come, that they may **LAY HOLD on Eternal LIFE.**” ([1Tim.6:17-19](#))

B. But IF We Depend on: Getting More, it Surely will turn into, Wanting More

- Jesus “spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
¹⁷ and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do,

because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

²¹ So is he that **layeth up treasure for himself**, and is **NOT RICH TOWARD God.**” ([Lk.12:16-21](#))

- “He that **LOVETH** silver, **shall NOT be SATISFIED** with silver; **NOR** he that **LOVETH** abundance with increase: this is also **VANITY.**” ([Ecc.5:10](#))

C. Multi-Millionaire Jay Gould, when Dying said,

- “I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth”

The Bible says,

- “**godliness with contentment is GREAT GAIN.**
⁷ For we **Brought NOTHING** into this world, and it is **CERTAIN** we can Carry **NOTHING** Out.
⁸ And **Having Food and Raiment**, let us **Be** therewith **CONTENT.**

⁹ But they that **WILL** be **RICH**, fall into temptation and a snare, and into **MANY** foolish and hurtful lusts, which **DROWN** men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the **LOVE OF MONEY** is the **ROOT** of **ALL EVIL:** which while some **COVETED** after, they have **ERRED** from the faith, and **PIERCED** themselves through with **Many SORROWS.**” ([1Tim.6:6-10](#))

- “...let **NOT** the **RICH** man, glory in his riches:” ([Jer.9:23c](#))

People have tried many ways to achieve happiness,

IV. Such as, **KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCEMENT IN EDUCATION**

A. It Is Possible to Spend Many Years, and Much Money, In This Endeavor

- But the Bible says, “the **WISDOM** of this world, is **FOOLISHNESS** with God. For it is written, He **TAKETH** the wise in their **OWN** craftiness.
²⁰ And again, The Lord **KNOWETH** the **THOUGHTS** of the **WISE**, that they **are VAIN**.” ([1Cor.3:19-20](#))

Knowledge and Advancement in Education,

B. Can Bring Unhappiness

- “For in much **WISDOM**, is much **GRIEF**: and he that increaseth **KNOWLEDGE**, increaseth **SORROW**.” ([Ecc.1:18](#))
- “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the **WISE** man glory in his **WISDOM**, ([Jer.9:23a](#))

C. Voltaire’s Misguided Studies, Led him to Infidelity

...Near the end of his life he wrote:

- “I wish I had never been born.”

People have tried many ways to achieve happiness,

V. Such as, **POPULARITY AND FAME**

A. History Shows that it Does Not Last

The Psalmist said,

- “Be not thou afraid, when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;
¹⁷ for when he dieth, he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.” ([Psa.49:16-17](#))
- “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.” ([1Pet.1:24](#))

Popularity and Fame,

B. Can Cause Ugly Pride

- “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly, than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” ([Rom.12:3](#))
- “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” ([Prov.16:18](#))

People have tried many ways to achieve happiness,

VI. Such as, **HEALTH & VITALITY**

Some spend,

A. Time, Money, & Energy, to Get It, and Keep It

- YET, “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” ([Heb.9:27](#))
- David said, “...truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.” ([1Sam.20:3](#))

Health & Vitality is,

B. A wonderful Blessing

- BUT “Bodily EXERCISE Profiteth LITTLE: but godliness is PROFITABLE unto all things, having PROMISE of the LIFE that NOW IS, and of that which IS TO COME.” ([1Tim.4:8](#))

We Should,

C. USE Health and Strength in Righteous Living

- “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your BODY, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” ([1Cor.6:20](#))

VII. SO WE WONDER: WHERE IS HAPPINESS TO BE FOUND?

A. Not in Any of the Above, or Anything Related

- Soloman said, “I looked on all the WORKS that my hands had wrought, and on the LABOUR that I had laboured to do: and, behold, ALL was VANITY and vexation of spirit, and there was NO PROFIT under the sun.” (read [Ecc.2:1-11](#))

B. The True Answer, on Where Happiness is To Be Found, Is IN CHRIST, Where one Gains True Joy and Blessedness, Living as God Designed Life to be Lived

- “Be GLAD in the Lord, and REJOICE, ye Righteous: and shout for JOY, all ye that are Upright in HEART.” ([Psa.32:11](#))
- “Therefore if any man be IN Christ, he is a NEW creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become NEW.” ([2Cor.5:17](#))

C. In the Lord we have:

POWER

- “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **POWER**, and of **LOVE**, and of a **SOUND** mind.” ([2Tim.1:7](#))
- “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The Effectual Fervent **PRAYER** of a Righteous man **availeth MUCH**.” ([Jas.5:16](#))
- “**Let your light SO SHINE** before men, that they may **SEE** your **GOOD** works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” ([Matt.5:16](#))

In the Lord we have, PLEASURE

- “Thou wilt shew me the **Path of Life**: in Thy presence is **Fulness of JOY**; at Thy right hand, there are **PLEASURES** for evermore.” ([Psa.16:11](#))
- “Whom having not seen, ye **LOVE**; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet **BELIEVING**, ye **REJOICE** with **JOY** unspeakable and **FULL of Glory**.” ([1Pet.1:8](#))

In the Lord we have, WEALTH

- “For ye know the **GRACE** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that **ye through His poverty might be RICH**.” ([2Cor.8:9](#))
- “and **IF** children, then heirs; **heirs of God**, and **joint-heirs WITH** Christ; **IF** so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also **GLORIFIED Together**.” ([Rom.8:17](#))

In the Lord we have, KNOWLEDGE

- “let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he **UNDERSTANDETH** and **KNOWETH** Me, ...Saith the Lord” ([Jer.9:24a](#))
- “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire, that ye might be **FILLED** with the **KNOWLEDGE of His Will** in **ALL Wisdom** and **Spiritual UNDERSTANDING**.” ([Col.1:9](#))

In the Lord we have, FAME: Known by God

- “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and **NOT** one of them is **FORGOTTEN** before God? ⁷ But even the **very hairs of your head are all numbered**. **Fear NOT** therefore: **ye are of MORE Value**, than many sparrows.” ([Lk.12:6-7](#))

And In the Lord we have, FAME: Known by the godly

- “For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place **your faith to God-ward is spread abroad**; so that we need not to speak any thing.” ([1Thess.1:8](#))

In the Lord we have, Health (spiritual, mental, and physical HEALTH)

- “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your **Whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY** be Preserved **BLAMELESS** unto the **COMING** of our Lord Jesus Christ.” ([1Thess.5:23](#))
- “Beloved, I wish above all things, that thou mayest **PROSPER** and be in **HEALTH**, even as thy **Soul PROSPERETH**.” ([3Jn.1:2](#))

VIII. IN-CONCLUSION

If you are not truly happy, **BEGIN NOW to Serve**, with **Determination**, to see it through.

Concerning the Ethiopian Eunuch, the Bible says that,

- “Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **PREACHED** unto him Jesus.
³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; **what doth hinder me to Be Baptized?**

³⁷ And Philip said, **IF** thou **BELIEVEST** with **ALL** thine **HEART**, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ IS the Son of God.**

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and **he Baptized him.**

³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way **REJOICING**.” ([Acts 8:35-39](#))

- “**REJOICE** evermore. ¹⁷ **PRAY** without ceasing.” ([1Thess.5:16-17](#))
- Paul said, “henceforth there is laid up for me a **CROWN** of Righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall **GIVE** me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them** also, that **LOVE** His appearing.” ([2Tim.4:8](#))

The only time assured is the present.

- So, “**why tarriest thou** (that is, why wait)? arise, and Be **BAPTIZED**, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” ([Acts 22:16](#))
- “**REPENT** therefore of this thy wickedness, and **PRAY** God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.” ([Acts 8:22](#))

If you have **NEED**, please **COME**,
While **TOGETHER**, we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
His Sources: Roy Foutz; Dick Marcear;
My original outline (sources for that are not now known).
Edited & Formatted: by Michael Wright