

"The Joy Of My Salvation"

2 Samuel 11:1-27

Psalms 51:12 "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with a willing spirit." ASV

Are You Happy?

- What is happiness?
 - World's definition: Self-satisfaction
 - "Enjoying or characterized by well-being and contentment" (Webster)

Are You Happy?

- What is happiness?
 - Do not confuse the pleasures of sin with real happiness.
 - Sin destroys happiness. **Psalms 32:1-4**
- God's definition. **1 Peter 3:8-12; Matthew 5:3-12**

Are You Happy?

- God wants us to be happy, but as He defines it. **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13; 9:7-9**
- David could only be happy through forgiveness. **Psalms 51**
- Jesus is our way out of unhappiness and despair. **cf. Acts 9:3-9, 18; Acts 2:36-37, 41, 46; John 16:22**

Happiness: Joy of Life

- State of mind; attitude of heart. **Proverbs 23:7**
 - A decision of the mind (will)
- Christians live in joy. **Galatians 5:22**
 - Right viewpoint of life. **Romans 8:18**
 - Forgiveness of sins. **Psalms 51:10-12**
 - Pure living.
 - Trusting God's promises. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Corinthians 6:10**

Happiness: Joy of Life

- Build a happy life by building faith in God.
 - Set your hope on God. **Hebrews 13:5-6**
 - Blessedness in trusting God. **Philippians 4:10-13**
 - Count your blessings and rejoice. **Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:4**
 - Be thankful for your brethren. **Romans 1:8; Philippians 4:1; 3 John 4**
 - Obey Jesus. **John 15:10-11**

Things of Earth do not Bring Lasting Happiness, **Ecclesiastes 1:13; 2:3**

- **Pleasure**. **Ecclesiastes 2:1-2**
 - **Laughter**. **Proverbs 14:13**
 - **Sensual pleasures are momentary**. **Hebrews 11:25; Luke 12:19**
 - **Often the source of unhappiness**. **Psalms 32:4**
 - **Distorts one's view of life and death**. **Ecclesiastes 7:2-4**

Things of Earth do not Bring Lasting Happiness

- **Possessions** **Ecclesiastes 2:4-11; Luke 2:15-21**
 - **Tend to isolate**. **4:7-8**
 - **No satisfaction ... more anxiety**. **Ecclesiastes 5:10-12; 1 Timothy 6:10**
 - **Rich young Ruler**. **Matthew 19:21-22**

Things of Earth do not Bring Lasting Happiness

- **Wisdom** **Ecclesiastes 2:12-17**
 - **Trusting in your own wisdom is foolish**. **1 Corinthians 3:18; 8:2**
 - **Death still comes**. **2:14**
 - **Divine wisdom needed**. **8:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:21**

Things of Earth do not Bring Lasting Happiness

- **Labor** **Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 (24)**
 - **Whose shall it be?** **2:18-19; Luke 12:20**
 - **Elements of despair**. **2:10; 5:13-17**
 - **Good, but not for ultimate joy**. **Lamentations 3:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**

Things of Earth do not Bring Lasting Happiness

- **Success** **Ecclesiastes 4:4-6**
 - **Often envied**. **4:4**
 - **Learn to be content with what our labor provides**. **1 Timothy 6:6-8**

Things of Earth do not Bring Lasting Happiness

- **If... desires fulfilled**. **Ecclesiastes 6:7-9**
 - **Never satisfied when desire rules**.
 - **Desires must be godly and be controlled by contented faith**. **Philippians 4:11-13**

If ... desires fulfilled, Leah Genesis 29:31-35

Ruben (i.e. "see a son") – "Because Jehovah hath looked upon my affliction." (misery NIV)

Simeon (i.e. "hearing") – "Because Jehovah hath heard that I am hated ..."

Levi (i.e. "attachment") – "Now this time my husband will be joined to me ..."

Judah (i.e. "praise") – "This time will I praise Jehovah"

Zebulun (i.e. "honor") "now will my husband dwell (honor) me." (*Genesis 30:20; 50:13*)

Things We Need To Be Happy

- **Fear and obey God.**
Ecclesiastes 12:13
- **Address sin in God's way.** **Acts 2:37-42; 8:39; 16:27, 34; Psalms 51:1-12**
- **Seek first the things of God.**
Matthew 6:33; cf. 1 Peter 3:10-11