

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

April 12, 2020

Issue 15

How To Be Happy - Learn To Be Content

By: Ronnie Scherffius

From a biblical perspective, true happiness is the state of blessed joy, pleasure and satisfaction one has knowing he belongs to God and knowing his sins are forgiven. In this sense of the word a Christian should never be *unhappy*. However, from the world's view happiness is achieved when "desires are gratified by the enjoyment of pleasure without pain." Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33). The idea that any person will live in a world where sin, suffering, and death exists will never experience *unhappy* circumstances is unrealistic. Yet, it is possible for one to learn *how to be happy* in spite of the many causes of unhappiness that surrounds them.

In a previous study we noted that one way to be happy is to *set attainable goals* and accomplish them. Another way to be happy in the midst of difficulties and unhappy circumstances is simply to **learn to be content**.

Commending the Philippians for their work and laboring to provide for his work and needs, Paul wrote:

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to **be content**. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:11-13)

Both neediness and abundance can produce unhappiness! Neediness often produces unhappiness as one desires for the "things" he does not possess. Many who live in abundance find themselves unhappy as they develop a desire for more, fail to acknowledge from whence their blessings flow, and forget to consider the needs of others around them. The rich fool said,

"What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 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. 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" (Luke 12:17-19)

Paul *learned* that contentment in either abundance or neediness was found in the goodness and grace of God:

"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Cor. 12:7-9).

We see people daily who have found themselves in very enjoyable and satisfying situations who are not happy. Perhaps it is because they have not given up the world for heaven, sacrificed means to support the gospel, surrendered security for salvation, or given up family for Christ. The Hebrews writer admonished: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have" (Heb. 13:5).

If we want to be happy in a world where unhappiness is often the rule, we should remember — we belong to the God of Jacob **and** we must learn to be content with the many blessings provided for us in Christ.

The Mark of a True Friend

Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"
2 Samuel 12:7

The devil is good at deceiving us. He can make light look like darkness and darkness look like light. He can trick us into believing that we're okay when we're living in rebellion against God. One of the ways he does this is through our friends.

Of course, these are not our true friends. A true friend will tell us what we need to hear, not just what we want to hear. A true friend will not turn a blind eye to our sin.

David needed a friend. He didn't need someone to make him feel better about himself. He didn't need someone to rationalize his wickedness before God. He needed someone to look him in the eye, and with love and compassion tell him, "You are the man."

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy." Proverbs 27:6

-Selected-

Make Me a Servant, Just Like Your Son

"...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28,

The High Priest wore special clothes that were designed to be beautiful and glorious (Ex 28:2). With all of the special embroidery, gold, and precious stones, his clothing resembled that of a king.

However, on the Day of Atonement, he did not wear these clothes, but instead wore a plain garment of fine linen. It consisted of four parts (a coat, undergarment, sash, and turban), all made of the same material. It would have appeared more plain than what the regular priests wore.

I can only speculate, but it seems to me that the fancy priestly garments were worn because the High Priest appeared before the people on behalf of God. He represented God to the people and his clothing should reflect God's glory. But on the Day of Atonement, he was to appear before God on behalf of the people. His clothing was to be simple. Unlike his kingly garments, these garments would more resemble what a slave would wear.

I can't help but see a parallel between the High Priest's clothes on the Day of Atonement and the clothes Jesus wore. Jesus emptied himself of his glory and came in the appearance of a servant (Phil 2:5-8). The night he was betrayed he took off his outer garment to perform the duty of the lowest slave to wash the feet of all the disciples, including Judas (John 13:1-5).

Jesus is once again wearing his glorious robes (Rev 1:12-16), but on this day we reflect on what Jesus wore when he was stripped of all his clothing, dignity, and heavenly glory, humbling himself to the point of death, even death on a cross.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of April 12, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements:
Scripture Reading:

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread:
Fruit of the Vine:
Offering:
Assist:

Sunday Evening:

Prayer

A.M. Opening:
A.M. Closing:
P.M. Opening:
P.M. Closing:

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.:
Sun. P.M.:
Wednesday:

Ushers:

Wednesday Devotional:

Open/Close Building:

Sound System:

Greeters:

Prepare Communion:

****Per the Men's meeting held Wednesday evening, March 18, 2020, it was decided to suspend all services effective immediately due to the Coronavirus and resume services on Sunday, May 3, 2020 if the CDC guidelines have been lifted. ****

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Paul Purswell's father, Larry, who passed away last week. Janice FitzSimmons who is re-cooperating at home from throat pain.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Jennifer Miles (7); Maren and Audrey Fielder (8); Bill Davis and Shiloh Cammock (11).

**Sermons are available on
our website
www.midtowncoc.org
under Resources**

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of April 5, 2020

Bible Class.....
A.M. Worship.....
P.M. Worship.....
Wednesday Bible Class.....

Offering week of April 5, 2020.....\$4,775

Reading for this week:

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an ene-
my." Proverbs 27:6

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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