

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

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Issue 18

How To Be Happy - Realize That You Can't Do Everything

By: Ronnie Scherffius

The world's image of happiness is vastly different from the Christians. Picture a Utopia — where perfection rules the day. All desires are gratified as humanity enjoys the pleasures of life without pain. Such a place does not exist! In fact, the word *utopia* literally means *nowhere* and originates from a Greek term meaning “not a place.” Nevertheless, the world's panacea for the ills of humanity, the remedy and cure-all to bring happiness to the masses would be a state of utopia. The Bible instructs us that true happiness is found in the knowledge that one belongs to God and that his sins are forgiven.

“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God” (Ps. 146:5)

“Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.” (Rom. 4:7)

Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33b). In Christ, regardless of the situation and circumstances we can be happy in this world because in Him we also have overcome. Thus, Paul could write, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content...I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:11, 13). Still, as we endure the struggles of this life (pain and suffering, sick-

ness and death) we understand that we will experience unhappy circumstances. How can we learn to be happy in spite of the many causes of unhappiness that surrounds us?

A principle one should learn to live by that will help him to be happy is the biblical principle — **realize that you can't do everything!** Only God is omnipotent. This principle of man's limitations is clearly evidenced in Jesus' commending statement, “She hath done *what she could*” (Mark 14:8). The parable of the sower is another example of the Bible's clear picture of man's limited abilities: “But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold” (Mt. 13:8). Note that none by himself will bring forth all the fruit but that each brought forth according to his limited ability.

The key to understanding this biblical principle and its power to bring happiness even in difficult circumstances is to realize that our limited ability demands limited responsibility. If a man feels that he has to do everything that needs to be done he will become overloaded, experience burn out and soon become less proficient in other areas. Furthermore, his failure to do *everything*, which he cannot possibly do, will produce a measure of discouragement that will rob him of any happiness which he might otherwise enjoy.

Another line of thought one should consider is that trying to do everything limits others and takes away their opportunities to put their talents and abilities to good use. In such a case both are unhappy and discouraged. The one because, try as he might, he

can't do everything and the other for not having the opportunity to do what he can.

When Phillip came preaching the gospel to Samaria "there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8). That joy came because by their obedience to the gospel those Samaritans were in Christ and belonged to God. No doubt, like their fellow Christians in neighboring cities, those Samaritans went about doing good and taking the gospel to the lost. They found true happiness in Christ doing what they could do. Happiness is found, not in doing everything that needs to be done but doing what you are able to do. Are you happy? What are you doing for the cause of Christ?

Protecting the Innocent

Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away... Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death. 2 Kings 11:1-2

It was killing time in Israel. Jehu had just finished a rampage killing Jezebel, Joram (king of Israel), Ahaziah (king of Judah), and all that was left of the house of Ahab (including all the prophets of Baal). The queen mother in Judah, Athaliah, saw the kingdom potentially slipping from her fingers with the death of her son, and so she proceeded to kill off all the heirs.

But then a woman of great faith stepped in and saved the Davidic line from extinction. Jehosheba stole away Joash, the last remaining heir of David, saving him from the daughter of Jezebel. She did this knowing that if Athaliah caught her she would be put to death.

When someone is the victim of vicious and malicious attacks, what do you do? Do you stand up and try to defend the innocent or do you become cautiously passive and silent? Do you fear getting caught in the cross fire?

We cannot allow the blood thirsty, power hungry attackers to do all this without a fight. We cannot sit idly by while good reputations are being destroyed. We must be willing to make a stand.

There's another way to look at this story. Joash was the last physical heir of David. The promises of God rested on his life. Therefore, when Jehosheba saved Joash, there is a sense in which she saved Jesus.

In the same way, when we identify with those who are in prison (literally or figuratively), when we come to the aid of those who are victims of gossip and slanderous accusations, we are aiding Jesus as well (Matt 25:39-40).

-Selected-

What a Single Sin Can Do to a Good Name

The son of Carmi: Achan, the troubler of Israel, who broke faith in the matter of the devoted thing. 1 Chronicles 2:7

There are some good names in these two chapters: Seth (1:1), Noah (1:4), Abraham (1:28), and Israel (2:1). We all want to have a good name. A good name is desired more than great riches (Prov 22:1). These men left this world with a good name.

But Achan did not have a good name. He was remembered as a troubler. He brought trouble to his family, both his immediate family who died with him for his sin and to the Israelite family who suffered defeat at Ai. That's how he was remembered. His name was ruined because of a single sin.

I'm not telling you this to pour salt into an open wound. God is also gracious and we can be forgiven of the sins we commit. Despite what has happened to your name on earth, your name can still be in the book of life in heaven.

But this is a warning. A single sin can forever ruin a good name. Think about that before you sin.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 3, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Pat Gooch
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Scott DeDear

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido
Pat Gooch

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Dale Hill
A.M. Closing: Isaac Jobes
P.M. Opening: Fred Scherffius
P.M. Closing: Doug Jobes

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.: Mike McVey
Wednesday: Fred Scherffius

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Lupe Escojido

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Will Burleson

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.****

****More info will be available after Men's business meeting Thursday evening, April 30th.****

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Jack Fielder, Allen Clifton (4), Ryan Stryker (5), Sherry Lynch (6)

**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 26, 2020

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

Offering week of April 26, 2020.....\$1,090

Reading for this week:

Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away... Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death.
2 Kings 11:1-2

SUPPORTED WORKS

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

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