

The Truly Happy Man

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Author: Caleb Wray

In life, people constantly look for some sort of gratification to make themselves happy. Many look for it in other people, activities, positions, and the like. No one wants to go through life unhappily, so there is a constant need to find what makes one happy. Our culture today has determined that you should do whatever it takes to be happy. If you are not happy, then change it. Gratification has become almost a necessity in life, and people fill it with void images. Everyone looks for happiness in the wrong places. True happiness does not come from this world, but rather from the Creator of the world. One cannot expect the little things in life to create total happiness. Things of this world are temporary, and therefore the joy given by them will be temporary. True happiness comes from God.

In Psalm 1, the Psalmist writes of the truly happy man. He first is described in how he does not act, showing what the unhappy and unrighteous man is. He is pictured as a healthy, fruitful tree, well-nourished by the waters. His character is one that does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. He does not sit in the seat of scoffers or stands in the way of sinners. He does not surround himself with those who live contrary to God. Being around the ungodly, scornful, and sinners will diminish his character. He does not make his place among them. He is not found amongst their ranks. He is away from them not scoffing at others, not practicing malady, or taking advice from the wrong counsel.

He rather delights in the law of the Lord. His joy is found in God and His law. He is found to meditate in it both day and night. When he finds what is truly joyful, he strives to be in it at all times. He finds true happiness among God and His law, which is perfect. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 19, the law of the Lord is perfect and able to convert the soul. The truly happy man realizes this and does not want a part of anything else, so as to keep happy.

The truly happy man is prosperous in what he does. He is described as like a tree firmly planted by the waters. He brings forth fruit and the leaf does not wither. Whatever he does he prospers. True happiness brings forth great blessings. One who is found to be truly happy, has a great disposition, and everything around is affected by such. Delighting in God and serving Him is prosperous.

The wicked are described as the opposite. The ungodly are not so. They are desperate for true

happiness, for they have not found it. They are like the chaff that the wind drives away. Whatever they enjoy is only for a moment, and then it fades. They have an unfortunate end. They will not stand in the judgment, they will not last at that time. They shall not be found among the righteous who are blessed and prosper. Their happiness is not found, for the wickedness is too great. They have not found the law of the Lord to be their delight. As such, their end will not be pleasant.

The ending of the Psalm shows that there are only the two paths. God knows the end result of either path. The Lord knows the way of the righteous. They delight in His law for they know and understand the reward that will be found at the end of it. The way of the ungodly will perish. Their end is what none desire, but yet many will find.

There are only the two paths, there is no middle ground. Each man must decide for themselves which path they will take. In life, the path of the wicked is filled with many opportunities of gratification and thrills along the way. None of it lasts, though. They continually look for something else to excite their life and to find meaning in it. They do not look for God and His law as the source of their joy. The pleasures of sin are but for a season. This Psalm signifies this greatly.

In this world, if we want to be truly happy, we must solely look to God, the creator of all. In Him & His law, we have order, direction, instruction, and the joy of what awaits us. —**CW**