

## **HAPPY NEW LIFE!**

### **Ron Halbrook**

“Hope you will be happy in your new home.” “Healthy, wealthy, and wise.” “Happy new year.” “We wish you happiness in marriage.” Such greetings and well wishes have a place in life but none of them tells what is necessary for *true happiness*.

“LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER: FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). This above all else fills out and fills up a man’s life. This is the one ingredient which is absolutely necessary for the “whole” of man — the full, happy, whole life.

Sin attracts but sin destroys. It destroys the wholeness, happiness, or true meaning of life. The pleasures of sin are “for a season” – the pleasures pass, leaving behind a broken and empty life (Hebrews 10:25). Sin separates the creature from his Creator (Isaiah 59:1-2). Sin makes man dead unto his Maker (Ezekiel 18:4). Walking according to the course of the sinful world makes us “children of disobedience.” “By nature” of disobedient lives, we are “the children of wrath” – divine wrath, God’s wrath (Ephesians 2:2-3). *Sin deceives us as to the source of true happiness and finally deprives us of all true happiness.*

This is why Jesus said we must be “born again” – “born of water and of the Spirit” (John 3:3-5). When we obey the gospel for the remission of sins, we are truly *born again* and begin a *new life*. Fleshly sickness, poverty, and limitation remains, for it is not the body of flesh that is born anew. Obtaining forgiveness of sin and right relation with God means a new birth of the spirit. The beauty, joy, and happiness of that new life cannot be marred by any frailty of the flesh. No, not even by the death of the body.

This happy new life does not leave us enslaved to sin. We “put off the old man with his deeds” – anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, lies, and such like. By faith in God’s power to forgive, we are buried with Christ “in baptism” and are “risen with Christ.” Thus, we have “put on the new man,” seeking “those things which are above” where Christ sits in glory (Colossians 2-3).