

VIGIL



“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

~ I Peter 5:8

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HAPPINESS

HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN HOLINESS

John Daniel

At the age of thirty she looked like a person of sixty. Her face showed the results of sleepless nights, the sins of immorality and drug use. She was a classic loser, and had tried to take her life several times. With tears running down her face, she asked, “Why can’t I be happy and have peace of mind like other people?” This story is not new. It rings throughout our nation and the world.

Happiness as a general rule, is the quest of all people. But in reality it is an elusive gem rarely found by the majority. The reason it is elusive is because of the places people look to find it. The banker finds it in his acquired fortune; a soldier in his glory of triumph; the poet in the applause of the people; the lawyer in wealth and reputation; the doctor in his punctual performance of his duties.

What is happiness? What comes to mind when you think of happiness? How would you define the word? Webster defines happiness, a noun form of happy, as “a felling of great pleasure,

contentment, glad, pleased.” The Greek word for “happy” (or blessed KJV) is *makarios*. This word was originally used to describe the condition of the gods as opposed to the condition of men. In Christianity it was used to describe the spiritual position, which men enjoyed through Christ. It is, as Peter stated, “a joy unspeakable.”

Happiness is an inner state of being. It is a peace that passeth all understanding. It’s a calmness and assurance given ONLY by God and His word. Happiness comes from being right with God (cf. Matthew 5:1-12). The wise man said, “He that giveth heed unto the word shall find good; and whoso trusteth in Jehovah, happy is he” (Proverbs 16:20). “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help. . .” (Psalm 146:5). And according to our text, “Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.” (Psalm 144:15).

Holiness (and its different forms), on the other hand, deals with that which pertains to God. This is because God’s intrinsic nature is that

of holiness. The contrast to holy is profane, like the woman mentioned above. Therefore, that which has been dedicated to God is not to be used in any profane way.

Man, then, in search for happiness, must turn to God “. . . happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.” Let us examine what is comprehended in this relationship. First of all, in just knowing we have been accepted by God as one of His children through our obedience to His divine plan for the redemption of our sin sick souls (Rom. 6:18-19). Knowing that His mercy and grace have been extended to us and has delivered us from both the guilt and misery of immorality (Titus 2:11; 3:5). Knowing that His wisdom has been given through His word that our ignorance might be removed and that we might be guided through the intricate mazes of this world (I Corinthians 1:18-25).

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PITFALLS TO HAPPINESS

Ronnie Hayes

Editorial

Solomon wrote, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13). Many feel happiness is based upon possessions, power, positions, and even people. Oh, how wrong and usually miserable we are when we base our happiness upon such. You've heard individuals say, "If I just had _____ (you can fill in the blank), I'd be happy!" Solomon is one who had everything, yet he was not happy. "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:10,11). Here is a man who had everything. One would think he must be ecstatic. Surely, this man would say life is great! But what Solomon said was, "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit" (Ecclesiastes 2:17). Solomon was looking for happiness in all of the wrong places.

Paul was one who knew something about happiness. Have you ever wondered how one who was beaten with many stripes, thrust into the inner prison with their feet in stocks, were singing praises to God? How could you muster up enough happiness to sing? It was because Paul knew that happiness is based upon our mind not our possessions or situations of life. To the church at Philippi, he wrote, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). When

my mind is centered on Christ, then will I be able to rejoice in all times. This is how Paul could say, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

Satan knows that our happiness is based upon our mind. Therefore, he wants to corrupt our thinking. He wants Christians to feel mistreated if they don't keep up with the Jones'. He wants Christians to blame God if they are not rich, successful, or giddy all the time. Satan is going to make sure there are pitfalls to happiness.

Greed is a pitfall to happiness. Webster's defines greed as, "excessive or reprehensible acquisitiveness" (504). Commonly we might say, "They can't get enough". Happiness will never come to one who can't get enough. Paul said, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). Greed will cause one to become selfish. Instead of helping, greed will cause one to turn a deaf ear to the needs of others. Christ said, "...It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). In giving one receives many blessings and maybe the greatest is the joy or happiness, which comes from the giving. Greed destroys the very joy helping. Be careful that our desire to have doesn't prevent our opportunity to be happy.

Envy is another pitfall to happiness. It is hard to be happy when the two-headed serpent of envy strangles the joy we should have for others. Vine's says that "...envy, is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others" (37). It is hard to imagine that the good news of others success brings displeasure to our lives. Apparently this is why there are warnings against envy. "A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones" (Proverbs 14:30). "Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be

thou in the fear of the LORD all the daylong" (Proverbs 23:17). One who is motivated by true love will not be controlled by this hideous sin. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up" (1 Corinthians 13:4). Lipscomb said, "envy is chagrin, mortification, discontent, or uneasiness at the sight of another's excellence or good fortune, accompanied with some degree of hatred and a desire to possess equal advantages; malicious grudging. Love does not envy the happiness and prosperity others enjoy" (197). Paul also warned the brethren at Galatia, "Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:26). If we are going to be happy we need to learn to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15). Envy will erase our joy.

Pride can keep us from happiness. Pride deals with immaturity. Children have to have the biggest or best to be happy. It is a shame that some adults never grow up. In the listing of qualifications of elders Paul said, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:6). Some will never be happy as long as they look around and realize that whatever they have is not the newest, biggest, best or most. Individuals who live life's driven by pride are in for a long and disappointing existence. We need to be careful that we don't allow Satan to poison our minds this way.

Happiness can be easily obtained if we will put Christ in the place that He deserves. Satan can blind us from the truth and make things look imperative. Things will not make us happy, but Christ can.

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HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN MERCY

Ashley Kizer

Have you considered the poor today? Your happiness depends upon the amount of consideration you give to the less fortunate in your community. At least that is what the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 41:1 – “Blessed *is* he that considereth the poor...” King Solomon referred to this consideration by using the word “mercy”. Proverbs 14:21 says, “He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.” The pursuit of happiness will be undertaken in vain without the practice of benevolence. Yet many will set out on this journey selfishly seeking the prize that has been placed for them just outside the boundaries of their comfort zone. A brief study of the Holy Scriptures will confirm that having mercy on the poor will make one a happier person.

There is much more to poverty than dollars and cents. As a matter of fact, the orphans in China consider all Americans rich, and there are many wealthy U.S. citizens that suffer from other forms of poverty. According to *Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*, the word translated “poor” in Proverbs 14:21 literally means “depressed in mind or circumstances”. Jesus sought to open the eyes of the Laodiceans when He revealed, “...thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17). Obviously, there is much more to the abundant life than monetary surplus (cf. John 10:10). Christians should not only strive for this intangible abundance, but be merciful enough to share it with the needy. In this sharing, we will find great joy.

Before we can be merciful to the poor, we must consider them (Psalm 41:1). The Law of Moses taught, “thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Leviticus 19:18). In

regard to this passage, an inquisitive lawyer once asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29) The Great Teacher went on to answer his question by relating the parable of the Good Samaritan about a man who decided to help a stranger who had been robbed and wounded on the road to Jericho (cf. Luke 10:30-35). According to the story, a priest and a Levite had passed by that way prior to the Samaritan, but (for whatever reason) they decided not to help (vv. 31-32). Verse 33 says, “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on *him*.” This Samaritan was peculiar in that he took interest in the needy individual. He considered him. How many of us decide to “mind our own business” when we happen to come upon a person who obviously needs our help? Maybe Jesus called the Pharisees “blind guides” because they failed to see the poor that so desperately needed their help (Matthew 23:16). Jesus told His disciples, “...ye have the poor always with you...” so they should be easy for us to find (Matthew 26:11). Here in the United States of America, “there were 6.8 million poor families (9.2%) in 2001, up from 6.4 million (6.7%) in 2000”.¹ Though this statistic relates to the lack of financial resources among American families, it indicates that there are needs in our country that continue to grow.

“Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7). This was part of Jesus’ teaching on how to be happy. Merciful and compassionate people live full and abundant lives. Their blood pressure doesn’t go up when they see a man with a cardboard sign while they’re stopped at a traffic light. They don’t pass judgment when they see a single mother at the grocery store who can’t

seem to control her children. Actually, merciful people tend to count their blessings, “giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:12). Christians should feel sorry for everyone who is not in Christ since we are given such wonderful blessings (Ephesians 1:3).

Yet it is not enough to feel sorry for people. The compassion of the Good Samaritan was commendable, but his actions made the difference in the life of the wounded man (Luke 10:34). We must consider the poor and be merciful toward them, but the difference will be made when we give them something. Psalm 112 describes a blessed man that “feareth the Lord”. Verse nine says, “He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.” Proverbs 31 describes a “virtuous woman” who “stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy” (vv. 10, 20). Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” and He commanded a young ruler to “sell all that [he had], and distribute unto the poor” (Acts 20:35; Luke 18:22). Only then would he have treasure in heaven.

What does Jesus expect of us? In a lesson on stewardship He taught, “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:48). It is likely that we will be called on to give much more than money (cf. Matthew 9:10-13).

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¹ Payne, Ruby. *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. 3rd. Highlands: aha! Process, Inc., 2003.

HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN TRUSTING IN GOD

Chuck Webster

In an insecure world, can we know confidence? In a world of uncertainties, can we find stability? In a society that prides itself on strength and power but is impotent to prevent national and individual tragedies, can we experience true happiness? Many of us seek it in wealth. But money is temporal (Matthew 6:19; 1 Timothy 6:10) and cannot deliver true contentment. Others seek happiness through health and longevity, but the Bible confirms what we already know experientially: life is uncertain (James 4:14), and health is fleeting (1 Timothy 4:8). Can lasting satisfaction be attained in a bed, a bottle, or a pill? The positive effects of fulfilling the desires of the flesh are likewise brief, and their negative consequences often remain indefinitely.

True happiness is found in only one source. In a world that is uncertain and difficult, we find contentment as we trust our Creator. Whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he (Proverbs 16:20, NKJV). Jeremiah writes, Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord (Jeremiah 17:7). The Psalmists often described the relationship between trust and blessedness: Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust (40:4). Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him (32:10). Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him (2:12). O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You! (84:12).

Trust in God enables us to live the life He planned for us by providing at least two important perspectives:

Trust focuses attention on life's only certainty.

We seek security in every realm. We deposit money in federally insured banks and invest in federally underwritten securities. We buy stocks and funds we believe to be relatively secure. We buy home insurance for our houses, rental insurance for our apartments, automobile insurance for our cars, and life insurance for our loved ones. We buy disability insurance in case we are disabled, health insurance in case we are sick, and long-term care insurance in case we are unable to take care of ourselves.

None of it, however, prevents cancer, house fires, or car wrecks. We still become sick, get old, and eventually die. The market still crashes, and solid investments lose money. There is simply no such thing as security or certainty in this world.

Except in God, of course. He is our Rock (Deuteronomy 32:4). David expressed confidence in God after he was rescued from his enemies: The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. . . . For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect. . . . The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation! (2 Samuel 22:2-3, 32-33, 47) The economy will falter, stocks will fall, and health will fail, but God will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). He is our Rock and Fortress.

Trust gives meaning to life's difficulties.

The unbeliever has no unifying principle to explain cancer, untimely deaths, or national disasters. He has no hope to cling to when he faces life's inevitable struggles. He has

nothing more substantial than the uncertainties of this temporal world to grasp for as disappointment invades his life. The Christian, however, sees meaning in trials. He knows that there is One who is working in the background to shape him into the person God wants him to be. He can therefore be content even in times of strife because he knows that God has a purpose in pain. James writes, My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials (James 1:2). James knew that God uses adversity to shape His children's character: Acknowledging that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (vv. 3-4). Many people have a form of happiness when everything is how they want it; it takes eyes of faith to find true contentment when shadows darken our doorstep.

Can we be happy? Contentment is not contingent on positive circumstances. Paul found contentment in whatever state he was, whether full or hungry, abounding or having need (Philippians 4:10-13). Our finding happiness is linked more closely to the extent to which we are willing to put everything in the hands of our omnipotent and omni-benevolent Creator. As we grow in trust, we will be able to say more confidently, Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God (Psalm 146:5).

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HAPPINESS IS A RESULT OF FAITHFULNESS

Ben Wright

The story is told that Andrew Jackson's boyhood friends just couldn't understand how he became a famous general and then the President of the United States. They knew of other men who had greater talent but who never succeeded. One of Jackson's friends said, "Why, Jim Brown, who lived right down the pike from Jackson, was not only smarter but he could throw Andy three times out of four in a wrestling match. But look where Andy is now."

Another friend responded, "How did there happen to be a fourth time? Didn't they usually say three times and out?"

"Sure, they were supposed to, but not Andy. He would never admit he was beat -- he would never stay 'threwed.' Jim Brown would get tired, and on the fourth try Andrew Jackson would throw him and be the winner."

Picking up on that idea, someone has said, "The thing that counts is not how many times you are 'threwed,' but whether you are willing to stay 'threwed'."

James wrote, "Behold, we count them happy which endure" (5:11). When a person is faithful to God there is contentment with life. The word "happy" in this passage does not mean what we think of "happy" meaning. Happiness to us is based on outward circumstances. A person can be happy one minute but sad the

next. Guy N. Woods stated of this word, ". . . the blessedness which the word indicates is inward, and results from the peace which reigns in the hearts of those who faithfully serve the Lord." (A Commentary on The Epistle of James, pg 283).

God has promised His children many things. There are redemption, justification, mercy, grace and many other things. The reception of each blessing is dependent upon our faithfulness. Do we wish to be saved? God has provided His grace and we must provide our faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith . . ." (Ephesians 2:8). "Therefore being justified by faith . . ." (Romans 5:1). The very next verse tells us that we have access to grace by faith.

The happiest people I have ever met have been those who are the most faithful. Their lives have problems like everyone else has problems. There are pain, suffering and loss. However, they like Job in James 5:11 persevere by faith.

I read a small bulletin article written by a preacher named Albert Reeves. It was entitled, "Unforgettable Experiences." In this article he wrote of a member of a congregation who was confined to bed. This person was picked up for worship and his folding bed was placed in the trunk. Upon arrival to the building, the man was placed on this folding bed and brought in the building to worship God. Not

knowing this individual, I would venture to say this person was incredibly happy.

His happiness was not based on outward circumstances. His happiness was based on the peace offered by the Lord to those of His who are faithful to Him. Each of us knows Christians who are miserable. Those who are miserable are also those who have the least faith. They complain and groan all the time. They make those around them miserable because of their lack of faith.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him . . ." (Hebrews 11:6). We might easily amend this verse to say, "But without faith it is impossible to be happy." Without faith there is no inner peace. The inner peace comes from believing in the words of God and faithfully following them out.

Are you a happy person? Or, in the words of one of Andrew Jackson's friends, do you "stay threwed?" The Christ came so that we can live an abundant life (John 10:10). Our life will be as abundant as our faith is.

May we all be like Andrew Jackson in that we refuse to "stay threwed." Better yet, let us all be like Job and receive the mercy and pity of the Lord because of our faithfulness.

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WORKS BY FRANKLIN CAMP AND BOBBY DUNCAN

Redemption Through the Bible, Preacher's Class, Sermons on CD in MP3 format *Redemption Through the Bible* is a series of Bible studies through the entire Bible that was studied primarily at the Adamsville congregation. The entire set is now available and contained on a total of 44 CD's in MP3 format. We now have available his Preacher's Class and Sermons. The Preacher's Class has a total of (12) and his sermons are contained on (2) CD's. Each CD's cost is \$5.00 plus tax and shipping. We now have available six books: *The Work of the Holy Spirit In Redemption* (\$14.95), *A study of the Book of Colossians* (\$3.95), *A study of the Book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon* (\$3.95) *A study of the Book of Job* (\$3.95) by **Franklin Camp**, and *The Gift of the Holy Ghost* (\$4.95) and *Sermon Outlines* (\$14.95) by **Bobby Duncan** (Add tax and postage.) You may order these books or CD's by calling (205) 674-5659 or e-mailing Brother's Inc. at acofc@bellsouth.net. (Please include your address and phone number.)

HAPPINESS CAN BE FOUND IN OPPORTUNITY

Dale Hubbert

Happiness is a state of mind and not a state of circumstances. Scores of people live and die without ever understanding and implementing that simple but powerful concept. Far too many are caught up in the fairy tale notion that begins “once upon a time” and concludes “and they lived happily ever after” with a series of unrealistic events in between. When life does not seemingly produce this environment, many people feel they have been slighted and even cheated.

Where is happiness found? Who is entitled to be happy? The answers to these questions are important. Happiness can be found in virtually every place for the child of God. God in his goodness has entitled any and every person with the opportunity to rejoice and be happy. The choice belongs to the individual!

The setting of Acts 26 finds the apostle Paul before King Agrippa. Paul had appealed to Caesar to seek to defend himself against false accusations from his own brethren. The fiery evangelist refused to whine, moan, and complain about the injustices he was forced to endure. He rather chose this approach: “I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews.”

What a way to take hold of the circumstances! Paul proceeded to testify of his life but more importantly of his Lord. Paul was so persuasive in his message that the king confessed that he was almost persuaded to become a Christian. What made Paul happy? It was the occasion to talk about Jesus to someone who was lost. He found happiness in opportunity. Seek and seize! Therein lies the formula for choosing happiness over any other option. It is somewhat like hidden treasure; it is there but will not knock on your door. Once the opportunity is found it must be

seized. We can if we choose observe the “passover” over numerous circumstances to receive joy and affect others in a positive way. The blessed and happy way is to identify and seize every potential setting that can provide joy.

Every day offers the opportunity to be happy. “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it”(Psalms 118:24). We can wake up each day and look for the situations wherein we can make a difference and receive joy to our soul. By doing so we will also bless the lives of others.

Victory and personal success can provide the opportunity to happiness. Our society places a great sense of value on winning. God places an even greater value on winning our spiritual battles. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”(1 Corinthians 15:57). It should bring joy to our hearts when with God’s help we are able to succeed and produce those fruits we have been redeemed to produce. We should find happiness in the success of others. “Rejoice with them that do rejoice”(Romans 12:15).

Infirmities and hardships can provide the opportunity to happiness. “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong “ (2 Corinthians 12:10). How could I say it any better? We have the choice of happiness even staring in the face of illness and physical problems.

The faithfulness of others can provide the opportunity to happiness. “Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord” (Acts 11:23). The steadfastness of others not only brings joy to our hearts but also motivates us to encourage others.

The opportunity to worship should provide the opportunity to happiness. “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalms 122:1). What could and should bring greater joy to the heart of a Christian? It should be delight and not dread that brings us to each opportunity to worship and fellowship.

Correction can provide the opportunity to happiness. That sounds a little strange. “Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty” (Job 5:17). Correction is a needful ingredient to happiness as it helps purge out lives from the things that will ultimately destroy our happiness.

Children can provide the opportunity to happiness. “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them” (Psalms 127:3-5). Children bring some of the greatest joys to our lives. It becomes imperative that we teach them spiritual values so those joys will be eternal (Ephesians 6:4).

Mercy on those in need can provide the opportunity to happiness. “He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he (Proverbs 14:21). Jesus accurately taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The opportunity for happiness comes not in looking for what we may receive, but rather in looking for what we can do for others (Philippians 2:4).

We as Paul can find happiness in the opportunities that come our way. It is necessary to have the same attitude, the same desire, and the same optimistic outlook.

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“REDEMPTION THROUGH THE BIBLE” STUDY SERIES BY FRANKLIN CAMP #1

Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

It was my privilege to know, and know well, Franklin Camp for twenty or more years until his decease in 1991. When he began his masterful labor on “The Work of the Holy Spirit in Redemption,” he requested I read it in manuscript form, which I felt fortunate so to do. He sent it to me chapter by chapter. Then, he requested I write the foreword to the book, which I was delighted to do. Here was my opening paragraph about the devoted and talented Franklin Camp:

Through the years, I have counted brother Franklin Camp as one of the best, most trustworthy and loyal friends of my entire lifetime. The two of us have spent many delightful hours in studying the riches of God’s gospel—the good news that originated with the Father, centered in Jesus Christ his Son and was faithfully revealed by the Holy Spirit. I have learned so much by listening to him preach and reading his gifted, deeply spiritual and scholarly articles, such as Old Truths in New Robes—both volumes I and II. His name is a standing synonym for Christian humility, Bible scholarship, loyalty to truth, opposition to all error and dedicated discipleship. I think I have been with him enough to know that he is one of the best and most sincere men I have ever known. Brother Camp

is a good man, a great man, a godly man.

I penned these sincere sentiments December 26, 1973, or nearly thirty-four years ago.

The last years of his life found his teaching the Bible—book by book—to the Adamsville, Alabama, congregation. This rich Bible material was recorded. His death kept him from finishing the latter books of the New Testament. The Adamsville elders and Sam Willcut of Munford, Tennessee, are bringing out this excellent Camp material in the form of Bible study books with thirteen lessons in each book. Discussion questions appear at the end of each lesson or chapter.

Brother Willcut is doing the transcribing and the material is brother Camp’s through and through. On the title page of each volume is this inscribed message:

The money realized above expenses in the sale of this book will be placed in the Franklin Camp Preacher Scholarship Fund to be used in furthering the education of men to preach the gospel.

This time-consuming venture is a work of faith and labor of love by brother Willcut and the Adamsville congregation.

THE BOOK OF JOB

Brother Camp had marvelous insights into the riches of this Old Testament book. He introduces the book, the era in which Job lived, authenticity, authorship and purpose of the book. He gives a thorough survey of the book as well as an

introduction to Job’s life, including his faith, family, finances, Satan’s slander against both God and Job, Job’s struggles, his steadfast tie with God, Satan’s second slander against God and Job, Job’s pain and torment, Job’s wife, Job’s three friends and the whys Job raised. For the next few chapters, brother Camp treats each of the speeches made by Job’s so-called friends and Job’s response to each one. They began with a false philosophy about human suffering and became more cruel and insensitive as their progressive tirades continued. Brother Camp had some marvelous insights into the progression of Job, the sufferer. Lesson 9 has Job seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Final arguments come into focus in Lesson 10. Lesson 11 is devoted to the speech of Elihu, to which Job did not respond.

Jehovah has His say in Job 38-41. God fully vindicates Job with prosperity returned in Job 42. Brother Camp covers this in Lesson 12. In Job 42, the eyes of the three friends are opened with Job praying for them. He again has a family with the same number of children as before. He lived to a ripe old age with an adoring family surrounding him.

Lesson 13 has excellent points about suffering. Job has a link with other wisdom books. Brother Camp connects the book of Job with the New Testament book of James.

Ripley, TN

Editors Note: We want to thank brother Robert Taylor for this review and recommendation of brother Franklin Camp’s material. There will be more brother Taylor’s review in issue to come.---- Ronnie Hayes Editor

Return Service Requested

Happiness is Found in Holiness - by John Daniel ----- continued from page 17

Knowing the omnipresence of God, we survey every possible condition of our life every day (Hebrews 4:13). Knowing that faithfulness is ours to perform and in doing so the “crown of life” is ours to win (Revelation 2:10). Knowing that because we have been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27), we have every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Knowing that in Him we are assured of finding a refuge in every time of need (Psalm 46:1). Knowing that in Him we have a friend that sticketh closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

How mistaken the man of the world is in respect to the “people of God.” There is no true happiness outside of being God’s people. Surely the Psalmist was picturing a nation whose every citizen was animated by the love of God, a community in which each separate soul was governed and guided by the wisdom, which is from above. A people in which there was no discord between their duties and their

desires, no disproportion and no inequity between the functions of the flesh and those of the mind and spirit (Romans 12:1-2). In other words, this would be a “holy nation” of people (1 Peter 2:9).

It would be in this holiness that man would find happiness. As a child in any of our families in our congregations can only be happy by being docile and obedient to the wise and benevolent guidance of a godly father, or to the tender love of a gentle and saintly mother, we all acknowledge that the highest good of the soul can be a reality only by being reverent and truthful towards Him who is the Father of us all, in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).

Why does happiness elude many? Because they fail to understand its true source. God is the giver of true happiness; the Bible is the guidebook to happiness; and the mind of man is the chooser. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may

exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). Happiness is found in being able to come into the presence of God as a holy people (Exodus. 19:22).

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