

Happiness in the Lord

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:13-18

Proverbs 28:14 **Happy is the man who is always reverent**, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

An old man was asked what had robbed him of joy the most in his lifetime. He replied, **"Things that never happened!"** Someone has cited these three keys to happiness: 1) **Fret not**--He loves you (John 13:1), 2) **Faint not**--He holds you (Psalm 139:10), 3) **Fear not**--He keeps you (Psalm 121:5).

1. **Christians should be the happiest people on earth. Being around other Christians gives us great joy!**
2. **As we realize that we have a heavenly Father who is waiting to bring us to His eternal home – it should thrill us.**
 - A. **I have put together six things that gives us reason to be so happy in Christ as we look forward to being with our Father.**

Trusting in God

1. **The Christian puts his trust in God and as a result has a source of strength and delight that unbelievers do not understand.**

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD **with all your heart**, and lean not on your own understanding;

Proverbs 16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and **whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.**

Relishing the Scriptures

1. The Psalmist wrote:

Psalms 1:1-2

Psalms 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

2. The sacred scriptures give hope, comfort, and gladness to lovers of truth.

Living Righteously

1. Again from the book of Psalms we read:

Psalms 32:10-11

Psalms 64:10 The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

2. The New Testament teaches man what he must do and the Christian loves to do it!

Titus 2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

3. Peter writes:

1 Peter 3:14

A. Clean living contributes to deep rooted joy and contentment!

1) You have nothing to hide, respect will be gained.

Worshipping God Regularly

1. **Worship itself is a delight to every Christian, because it is through worship to God that our hearts are lifted. David said:**
Psalms 96:9-11

Psalms 122:1 I was **glad** when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

2. **Worship is for the glory of God and the happiness of man.**
 - A. **What a joy it is to be able to worship our creator, because we know that someday we will be with Him in the eternal heaven.**

Keeping a Clean Conscience

1. **When before Felix, Ananias the high priest, and the Jewish elders, Paul remarked:**

Acts 24:16 This being so, I myself **always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.**

2. **Timothy was instructed to:**

1 Timothy 1:19 have faith and **a good conscience**.....

3. **There is happiness to those who can and do worship God with a pure conscience.**
 - A. **A guilty conscience causes one to be miserable. The happy Christian lives in good conscience knowing that they are in submission to the teaching of God.**

Staying Busy in Constructive Work

1. **Idleness breeds displeasure, restlessness, despondency, and much mischief.**
2. **The Christian knows that happiness comes to the individual who works persistently, consistently, and diligently.**
 - A. **The happy Christian is not slothful in business, but “fervent in spirit” as they serve the Lord.**
Romans 12:11
3. **Effort and accomplishment bring the inward pleasure of fulfillment. Concentration on beneficial work keeps the mind away from thoughts that are detrimental.**
 - A. **That is why prayer is so important. “Pray without ceasing.”**
4. **That is why all Christians are encouraged to:**

1 Corinthians 15:58.... be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

Conclusion

1. **Christians are happy because:**
 - A. **They trust in God**
 - B. **They relish the scriptures**
 - C. **They live righteously**
 - D. **They worship God regularly**
 - E. **They keep a clean conscience**
 - F. **They stay busy in constructive work**
2. **Happy Christians love God and each other. **Genuine happiness in the Lord is the result of obedience to Christ.****

Place

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Happiness in the Lord