MAKING FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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**DATE: 12/30/2019 am**

**TEXT: John 16:19-24**

**INTRODUCTION**

How often do we use the word *Happy* without really realizing it?

I’m sure you’ve wished someone a Happy New Year, already, right? (Happy Birthday etc.)

So, what are we trying to convey when we use that term?

Not just Happy New Year, but also the whole idea of the pursuit of Happiness in general

How can we experience happiness in our Life this year?

As Believers, is Happiness what we should be striving for?

Think of all the hard-ship and turmoil we face

America is strapped with a $5.7 trillion Gov’t deficit

We are going to see another round of political infighting for sure, in 2019

Wars and Rumors of Wars are rampant

We hear of murder, rape, drugs, rebellion, and divorce

We see poverty and sickness all around and now we’re seeing sexual abuse in the churches

Then on top of that the state wants to legalize marijuana

Globally people can’t get along, nationally people can’t get along and locally people can’t get along

Humanity is ripe for a World Ruler

How can we squeeze any kind of happiness out of all this?

Before we begin to try to find happiness for everyone

Let’s think about What happiness is? (or isn’t)

And is that what we really want?

I would suggest something different

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. HAPPINESS**

I think we all can kind of agree on what happiness means

We all have different things that make us happy, based on our various personality or situations

For example - It makes me happy to look out over the sanctuary and see everyone in their place

It's may seem a small thing to you, but it makes me happy

Of course, about 60 seconds later, I’m no longer thinking about that,

But wondering about other things

Happiness, while a wonderful experience, is fleeting and really dependent on external happenings

Let me explain what I mean with some examples of happiness from the Bible

**Job 5:17 – *“Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:”***

**Psalm 128:2 – *“For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee”***

**Proverbs 14:21 – *“He … that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he”***

Did you hear how each example is dependent on something happening?

Happiness is almost always an *if-then* statement

If \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happens, then happiness happens

If God corrects a man, then that man will be happy

If you are gracious to the poor, then you will be happy

If you are here, then I will be happy

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to say that happiness is bad

Quite the opposite! Happiness is a gift from God, and a very good thing

But *happiness*, by its very nature doesn't last

And you can’t live your life based on whether you are happy or not

It just, doesn’t make for a good life

What we need is not Happiness, but Joy

**II. JOY**

Joy comes from a word that means *to be exceedingly glad*

Take this example from **James 1:2-4 – *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;” “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” “But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing”***

No one likes trouble, yet the Bible says when you face all kinds of ***“temptations”***

That we need to be Joyful, because it is Glorifying to God that we can Face these troubles in His power

**I Corinthians 10:13 – *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”***

Joy comes from a solid factor, an unshakeable fact

And that is, Our Faith in the Lord

True Joy develops within someone and is not dependent on external circumstances

**Philippians 1:12-21 …**

Did you notice **v. 18**? - ***“What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice”***

Paul wrote these words while he was in jail and knew his life on earth was nearing an end

Yet he still had Joy;

The foundation of which was in his Saviour, and through his suffering, the gospel spread throughout all of Rome

This was no fleeting happy feeling; it was assurance in God's power to use his life for His glory

Even in the face of death!

*What if I'm saved, but I don't feel joyful?*

You have a relationship with Christ, you know your Saviour has saved you and loves you, but you don't feel joy

Don't worry / We all get like that sometimes

This doesn’t mean you are not saved or a bad Christian

Let me give you a couple verses

**Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

**Philippians 4:19 – *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”***

Life is hard, and even harder to maintain the feeling of happiness

But guess what? Joy is not based on *feelings*

It is based on *knowing*

Not everything should be based on our emotions

But that is what we are prone to do

**Romans 7:18 – *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not”***

**Philippians 1:25 –*“And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;”***

**II Timothy 1:12 – *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”***

**Romans 4:21 – *“And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform”***

On those days that everything just feels bleak, remember and know that your Saviour loves you and loved you enough to die for you,

The Bible Promises us that we won’t be given more than we can handle – again **1 Cor. 10:13**

Happiness, although a wonderful gift from God, will always be dependent on something happening on the outside

Which is out of our control

On the other hand, Joy is a deep seated security based on our knowledge that God loves us, will take care of us, and has saved us through His Son (according to His Promises)

**Ephesians 1:13,14 – *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation:***

***in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,” “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory”***

Joy comes from our Relationship with Christ

If your Relationship with Christ is where it should be

Then, we will have Joy

And Joy leads to Contentment

**HAPPINESS**

**JOY**

**III. CONTENTMENT**

What does it take to make someone Content?

What does the Bible say about Contentment?
One dictionary defines *Contentment* as *the state of being mentally or emotionally satisfied with things as they are*

Today it’s rare that we find anyone who is truly Content with his or her condition in life

Yet, the Bible has a great deal to say about Contentment

That is, being satisfied with what we have, who we are, and where we’re going

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:25 –** ***“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, …***

***… or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”***

In essence, Jesus is telling us to be Content with what we have

Moreover, He has given us a direct command not to worry about our basic needs

He adds, **Matthew 6:32, 33 – *“(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things” “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”***

I don’t see that today …

-- I see people chasing their careers

-- I see people chasing their hobbies

-- I see people chasing their dreams

-- I see people following their own wills (and not God’s)

Doing what they want

God directs us to draw close to Him – ***“His righteousness”***

From Jesus’ words, we understand that our lack of Contentment is sin and it puts us in the same category as those who do not know God

**Romans 14:23 - *“for whatsoever is not of faith is sin”***

**Hebrews 11:6 – *“without Faith it is impossible to please God”***

The apostle Paul was a man who suffered and went without the comforts of life more than most people could ever imagine

**II Corinthians 11:23-28 …**

Yet he knew the secret of Contentment

**Philippians 4:12, 13 – *“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need” “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

**Hebrews 13:5,6 – *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be Content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”***

Yet people continue to seek after more of the things of this world, never Contented with their lot in life

The bumper sticker that reads *“He with the most toys wins!”* epitomizes the world’s cravings for more and more

The latest global statistic shows that

If someone has a roof over his head and a meal on his table, he is richer than 93% of the world’s population

If a person wears a pair of shoes, he is richer than 75% of the rest of the world

In the United States alone, credit card debt averages more than $16,000 per household, and we are still discontented

Solomon, the wisest and richest man who ever lived, said,

**Ecclesiastes 5:10 – *“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity”***

***“Be content with such things as we have”*** means …

As believers our trust and confidence should be in God

That we should be satisfied with our condition regardless of our circumstances

For we are to know assuredly that our God is Faithful

**I Corinthians 1:9 – *“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord”***

He will cause all things to work together for our good

**Romans 8:28 …**

To worry means we don’t trust God

The key to overcoming our Discontentment because of our Lack of Faith …

Is to find out who God really is and how He has been faithful to supply the needs of His people in the past

God took care of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

God took care of David (I could go on)

Matter-of-fact the Bible is an endless declaration of God always taking care of His own

Such study will grow one’s confidence and trust for our future

The apostle Peter said it perfectly

**I Peter 5:6 – *“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”***

**CONCLUSION**

So, what do you think it should be this New Year?

Happiness, Joy or Contentment?

I guess you will have to decide