

Door Creek Church | Devotional Plan

Tuesday, May 12

Psalm 119 | The Pursuit of Happiness

“Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.” (Psalm 119:2-3, NLT)

Do you know anyone who doesn't want to be happy and experience the “good life”? It would be very, very hard to find someone who only wants to be miserable every single day for the rest of their life.

Many people spend their entire lives on a journey to find happiness and a bit of the “good life,” only to end up feeling like it's out of their grasp and can never be really found. Instead, many of us only end up pursuing substitutes or shadows of things that we think can make us happy.

The Bible, the Book with the genuine answers, thankfully points us to the true source of all happiness - the Lord. A “good life” or a blessed life can only be found in the person of God. Take the entire book of Psalms for example. It clearly reminds us of the blessings available only through God. (See Ps. 1:1-4)

In Psalms 1: 1-4, the Psalmist offers us four different ways that we can find true happiness:

1. Obey God's decrees.
2. Search for Him with all our heart.
3. Do not compromise with evil.
4. Walk only in His paths.

Obedience to God is not about following His “rules,” but ultimately about us allowing Him to transform our hearts, in such a way that we genuinely *desire* to do all that He asks of us, then find His happiness there.

Searching for Him with all of our hearts, means that we value Him more than anything or anyone else in our lives

Not compromising with evil, means that we accept what *God calls sin, is sin*. Then realizing that there will be consequences to pay if we follow sin, just as there is immeasurable joy to be received in following His ways.

Walking only on His paths, means trying to make every life decision based upon what God knows is best for us, instead of trusting our own short-sighted feelings and imperfect judgement.

As you think about your current level of happiness, could it be that the joy, peace and fulfillment you lack today is because you are not actively committed to truly pursuing the true source of happiness?

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.