

Happiness Thieves

1 Thess 5:16

Introduction:

- A. Many, even among Christians, seem to never find happiness - contentment - peace.
 - 1. Some plan to be unhappy: "People are about as happy as they make up their minds to be".
 - 2. Some have physical problems - need medical treatment.
 - 3. Some making it primary purpose in life - really result of other pursuits.
 - 4. Some have no real reason to be happy.
- B. Christians should be the happiest of all people, yet many are not.
 - 1. They have every reason to rejoice (Rom. 12:12) - because some things, in spite of others.
 - a. When they obey gospel. (Acts 8:39; 16:34).
 - b. When they serve and sacrifice. (Heb. 10:34).
 - c. When they are mistreated. (Mt. 5:11,12; Act 5:41)
 - 2. They are basically happy, yet without being on a perpetual hyped up high.
 - a. Sad at times. (cf. John 11:35; Rom. 9:2; 12:15).
 - b. Anxious at times. (2 Cor. 2:13; 11:28).
 - c. Fearful at times. (2 Cor. 7:4-6).
 - d. Such was exception, not rule.
 - e. Characterized by inner quiet peace of mind from God. (cf. Phil. 4:4-9).
 - f. Happy in spite of outward circumstance. (Phil 4.11)
- C. Many allow happiness robbers to rob them of the happiness they should have in Christ.

Discussion:

II. Guilt.

- A. The guilty should not be happy while guilty.
 - 1. David's sin ever before him (Psa. 51:3,4)
 - 2. Judas Iscariot - suicide.
 - 3. If happy, then will not repent. (2 Cor. 7:8-10).
- B. The guilty can only be happy by:
 - 1. Searing his conscience.
 - 2. Accepting forgiveness.

III. Envy — Jealousy — Resentment.

- A. Envy is rottenness of bones. (Prov. 14:30).
- B. Envy made Joseph's brothers unhappy. (Gen. 37:4-13,19-20).

IV. Covetousness.

- A. Brings sorrow. (1 Tim. 6:6-10).
- B. Covetousness is never satisfied.
- C. Covetousness a form of idolatry. (Col. 3:5).

V. Hatred.

- A. A form of murder. (1 John 3:15)
- B. Must be put away. (Eph. 4:31,32).

VI. Evil Suspicions.

- A. Must be avoided. (1 Tim. 6:4,5).
- B. Opposite of love. (1 Cor. 13:5).
- C. Psychology calls it "paranoia".

VII. Brooding.

- A. Need to mediate on good things. (Phil. 4:8).
- B. Help what can help, but do not brood over what can't help.
 - 1. When rejected by Jews, Paul turned to others. (Acts 18:6).
 - a. Did all could save them.
 - b. Was still concerned (cf. Rom. 9:2), but not paralyze him.
 - 2. Do duty then feel free from blood. (Acts 20:26,27).
- C. Remember some things are out of our hands.

VIII. Inordinate Anxiety — Fear.

- A. A lack of faith. (Matt. 6:30; 8:26).
- B. A lack of trust in power and providence of God.

Conclusion:

- A. No such thing as absolute happiness in this world.
- B. But, can enjoy predominately happy if always do will of God (cf. Gal. 5:22; Rom 14:17)