

Recovering AWE

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, April 2/3, 2016 Ray Davis

"HAPPINESS" Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Research indicates that there is little correlation between the circumstances of people's lives and how happy they are. Yet, when people respond to the question "Why aren't you happy?" they tend to focus on their current difficult circumstances. Your circumstances actually matter far less to your happiness than you think.

"The people of God ought to be the happiest people in all the wide world! People should be coming to us constantly and asking the source of our joy and delight." —A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

"Jesus promised His disciples three things—that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble." —G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

- 1) The desire to be happy is a healthy desire.
- 2) God has placed eternity in our hearts and nothing less than God can make us fully happy. vv1, 11, 15, 17, 21, 23; Eccl3:11
- 3) Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy (C.S. Lewis). Luke12:15; Eccl5:10
- 4) Whenever you ask creation to do what only the Creator can do, you are on your way to addiction. Rom1:21-32; Job1:20-22
- 5) We are commanded to be happy and holy in God. In fact, happiness and holiness are one in the same pursuit. Phil4:4; Ps37:4; 1Pet1:15-16
- 6) God secured our eternal happiness through the cross and an empty tomb. By grace through faith in Christ He is with you and in you and for you right this very moment. Eph2:8-10; Col1:27; Rom8:31

7) Don't seek the giver instead of the gifts; seek the giver through the gifts. Creation serves its highest purpose when it points our hearts to the Creator. 1Tim4:4, 6:17; James1:17

8) Continually practicing God's presence is the key to happiness. Ps105:4; Ps16:2, 4, 8, 11; Heb11:25-26; Phil3:7-11

9) The happy soul consistently looks upward in thanksgiving to God and outward in blessing to others. Eph5:18-21; Acts 20:35

10) At the end of your life you can have one of two combinations: a) Both God and happiness. b) Neither God nor happiness. What you won't be able to have is God without happiness or happiness without God. Heb9:27-28; Rev20:11-15

GROWING NOTES

- 1) Research indicates that there is little correlation between the circumstances of people's lives and how happy they are. Yet, when people respond to the question "Why aren't you happy?" they tend to focus on their current difficult circumstances. Why do you think that is the case? Your circumstances actually matter far less to your happiness than you think. Agree or disagree? Explain.
- 2) Imagine for a moment that you had unlimited access to all your desires. What would your life be like if you could have anything and anyone you wanted without restriction? That was the life of Solomon. Read Eccl2:1-26. What stands out to you from this text?
- 3) In your past, what things have you pursued apart from God hoping that they made life meaningful and enjoyable? Did those pursuits provide the lasting internal peace, joy, and satisfaction that you had hoped for? Why or why not?
- 4) Review the 10 statements in the sermon notes along with cross references. Which one(s) are most convicting? Which one(s) are most compelling? What is God speaking to you through this study? What are your next steps to Recovering AWE in finding greater satisfaction in Christ? Pray.