

“Happiness Guaranteed”

By: Michael R. Hughes

Text: Job 14:1,2

Theme: To encourage us to be happy people.

Introduction:

1. We live in a world full of unhappy people; it seems that some people cannot be happy unless they are unhappy!
Exs:
 - a. Man dropped box at store and audibly cursed.
 - b. Drivers of truck and car at a gas station cursing each other and threatening to fight on the street.
 - c. Woman at laundromat cursing and screaming at her child for an insignificant thing.
 - d. On a larger scale, wars and rumors of wars.
2. It is a sad commentary on our lives when we are not happy. As far as our lives concerned, we need to be free from the awful burden of unhappiness.
3. Happiness is something to be desired.
 - a. Our forefathers talked about it in the Declaration of Independence.
 - 1) *Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness* are said to be “inalienable rights.”
 - 2) Teen-age version: life, liberty, and an automobile in which to pursue happiness.
 - b. It will help us to live fuller and longer lives.
 - 1) Statement from an uninspired source - Ecclesiasticus 30:22.
 - 2) “The gladness of the heart is the life of man, and the joyfulness of a man prolongs his days.”
 - c. We let so many things keep us from being happy - Job 14:1,2.

Discussion:

- I. We often lack happiness because we look to the wrong things for happiness.
 - A. What do we think will make us happy?
 1. Cars
 2. Money
 3. Marriage
 4. Getting out of school
 5. Good job
 6. Opt. for older groups: home, having children.
 - B. But these things cannot *guarantee* happiness, though they may contribute to happiness for some period.
For instance:
 1. What happens when the car breaks down?
 2. What happens when all the money is gone?
 - a. Rich people do not find full satisfaction in money.
 - b. They constantly “need” more money.
 - c. So senseless - what good is it to have a billion dollars? [Ill. If one had a billion dollars, he could spend \$1000 a day for 2737 years (including leap years) and still have over \$310,000 left!].
 3. We mentioned marriage: Someone has said: “Love is blind.” Well, “Marriage is the eye opener.”
 - a. The honeymoon is shortly over.
 - 1) Who’s going to fix breakfast?
 - 2) He has to go to work.
 - b. Guys, don’t just marry for good looks.
 - 1) She won’t always be that pretty.
 - 2) Especially when waking up (red lines on the face- guys who wear glasses are perhaps lucky in this respect).
 - 3) And what if she becomes one of those naggers?
 - a) Proverbs 21:9; 25:24
 - b) Proverbs 21:19
 - c) Proverbs 27:15
 - c. Girls, don’t think he will always treat you like a queen.

- 1) Better enjoy the niceties now.
 - a) Opening the car door, walking you to the house, etc. (Ill. David opening the door for Janice).
 - b) Better make sure he does those things now.
- 2) It seems that these things pass with years of marriage. [Illustration - Schulls been married for over 50 years, but he still opens the door for her and she still sits beside him.]
4. Getting out of school and finding a job.
 - a. May not find a job
 - b. May not find the job you want
 - c. Even if you do, there will be drawbacks - no guarantee of happiness
- C. These things can aid happiness in our lives, when used and/or engaged in properly, but cannot in and of themselves be the real strength to a general state of happiness.
 1. These things can fool us.
 - a. They can make us pretend to be happy when we really we are not.
 - b. Job 4:13.
 - c. Ecclesiastes 2:4-11.
- D. There is a deceptive philosophy about happiness.
 1. The modern world calls it *humanism*, the Bible calls it *sin*.
 2. The humanists reject faith in God saying that faith in God stands in the way of the true progress of mankind.
 - a. They do not want a divine standard of authority.
 - b. Because, under their philosophy, everything goes as long as it seems to make people happy - cf. Isaiah 2:13b.
 3. We are being bombarded with it. Cf - songs on the radio:
 - a. "If loving you is wrong, I don't want to be right."
 - b. "Let's get physical."
 - c. "It can't be wrong when it feels to right."

4. Constant bombardment of illicit sex.
5. Granted: These things provide for some seeming happiness.
 - a. Hebrews 11:25.
 - b. The pleasure of sin.
6. But this happiness is not real, not deep rooted; it is short-lived and, certainly, condemned of God.
7. The way of the wicked shall perish (Psalm 37:34-40); but the happy people are those that follow the Lord and his righteousness (Psalm 37:1-11).
8. So then, what is the basis for true happiness in this life?

II. Basis for happiness: something to do; something to love; something to look forward to.

A. Something to do - Ecclesiastes 2:24.

1. When people get old and retire, sometimes they get very bored because they have nothing to do and they become unhappy.
2. One does not have to be old to fall into this trap; young people have a lot of energy that needs to be used to produce happiness.
3. Many things to do:
 - a. Pertaining to school.
 - b. Pertaining to the church: Psalms 40:8; 122:1.
 - 1) Become a Christian if not one.
 - 2) Causes happiness - Acts 8:39.
 - c. Do good - Galatians 6:10.
 - 1) Psalm 37:3; Proverbs 14:21; James 1:27.
 - 2) It should give us a true sense of happiness as we do for others.

B. Something to love -

1. Love is the deepest of human emotions.
2. Our lives on this earth would be pure torment if we really believed there was nobody who loved us.
3. But, if our lives are going to be complete and happy, we must also be givers of love.
 - a. The two great commandments are commandments of love - Matthew 22:36-40.
 - 1) Love God.
 - a) 1 John 4:19; John 3:16.

- b) Of course, our love for God involves love for Jesus Christ.
 - 2) Love our neighbors.
 - a) This would really help to solve the world's problems and make this a happier place to live.
 - b) Matthew 22:39.
 - 3) Other objects of our love.
 - a) The church - I Peter 2:17; John 13:34,35; cf. Ephesians 5:25.
 - b) Our parents - Ephesians 6:1,2.
 - c) Our children - Titus 2:4.
 - d) Our mates - Ephesians 5:25. (Ill. - the Schulls sitting next to each other in the car and he opening the door for her, though they have been married for over sixty years).
 - 1. *It is the husbands duty to promote love in the home.*
 - 2. *Titus 2:4.*
 - e) Our enemies - Matthew 5:44.
 - 4. The broader your love, the broader your happiness.
- C. Something to look forward to -
 - 1. Cf. Child anxious for birthday - as it gets nearer, the child gets happier.
 - 2. We are anxiously awaiting the Lord's return when we will receive a reward.
 - 3. People of this world have nothing to look forward to.
 - a. People of the world have their portion in this life - Psalm 73:14.
 - b. The triumphing of the wicked is short - Job 20:5.
 - c. Luke 16:25.
 - d. They die in fear and agony, not knowing God.
 - 4. Oh how great is it to have the Christian hope.
 - a. I Peter 3:3,4 (Tell about conversation with Jehovah's Witness lady at door and she expressed no hope or desire to going to heaven - how sad for her).

- b. John 4:1-3.
- c. And we get happier each day knowing that that time is one day nearer -
cf. Hebrews 2:2.
- d. What a wonderful thing to know that the Lord is coming for us.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus wants us to be happy people - John 10:10.
2. How to be happy: Keep your heart free from hate, your mind free from worry, live simply, expect little, give much, sing often, pray always, forget self, think of others and their feelings, fill your heart with love, scatter sunshine. These are tried links in the golden chain of contentment.
3. We have given the true formula: something to do, something to love, something to look forward to.

Invitation:

1. Do you have something to look forward to?
2. Obey the gospel and you can truly be a happy person.