



LET'S VISIT

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MUSINGS ABOUT CHRIST & HAPPINESS

Happiness seems to be a universal longing of mankind. In fact, it is almost instinctive. The tragedy is that the vast majority are on the wrong scent. They are like a hunting dog that has picked up the wrong tail. In our day and time, great masses of humanity are following the wrong path.

Often it seems folks believe, almost universally, that happiness will automatically come if one possesses vast amounts of money. They feel happiness comes if our toy box is full of toys. They also feel power, fame and prestige bring happiness. Happiness comes if certain desires of the flesh are gratified. At least, this is the thinking of many.

Historically, mankind has sought happiness in these things and places. Truth be told, happiness cannot be equated to any of these things. Many people who possess these things are not happy. Conversely, there are those who lack these things who are happy.

Solomon of long ago possessed them all. Yet, here is what he wrote in Ecclesiastes 2:11; *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."* Later in the same book he gave his conclusion. It was his conclusion concerning life. We find it in Ecclesiastes 12:13; *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."* Further evidence that happiness comes from a different source is found in the life of the apostle Paul. From a Roman prison he wrote *"rejoice in the Lord"*. In spite of suffering, Paul had an inner joy. A joy that gave him strength and power.

The distinction we often fail to make is the difference between pleasure and happiness. It would

be unrealistic to deny the fact that sin often brings pleasure. When we think about it, there are numerous activities that bring pleasure to us. Some are wholesome and fine. Others are degrading and sinful.

There is a momentary kind of enjoyment. Yet, it is far different from the deep lasting kind of enjoyment that happiness brings. Happiness has an inner, spiritual element that is central. There is a deeper, longer-lasting quality about happiness. It brings peace of mind, satisfaction and fulfillment. This full, permanent kind of happiness is found most completely in Christ and following His way of life.

The Christian life, living for Jesus is the only kind of life that will really work. Remember that Jesus said in John 10:10, *"I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly"*. Living Jesus' kind of life is always the best course of action from the standpoint of sense and reason.

Often, people fail to find happiness because their life lacks purpose and meaning. Through the centuries, the human family has abandoned God and religion. There are many today who are trying to live this kind of life. When people try to live without God in their lives, they find that skepticism, doubt and atheism lead absolutely nowhere. As a result of trying to live without God in their lives, people become jumpy and jittery. Life has an aimlessness

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Myths, Misconceptions & Misinformation

For The Pantry. . .

September 7 – Dried Beans

Offering – August 31, 2025 . . \$ 2,123.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Christ & Happiness – continued from page 1

and emptiness. This emptiness leads to escapism in drinking and drugs.

You see, because of self-centeredness, people often fail to find happiness. To be quite frank, there are no happy self-centered people. Self-centeredness destroys human personality. If an individual is to be happy, the denial of self in favor of something more important is essential. However, our modern, self-indulgent, permissive attitude often results in license and anarchy. It also results in unhappiness.

We also let happiness slip away from us through fear and anxiety. Remember, Jesus told those people listening to Him preach on a mountain one day *"sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"* (Matthew 6:33) He was telling them, to not worry about yesterday or tomorrow. He wanted them to be concerned only about today. The lack of anxiety and fear is made possible by the promise Paul wrote in Matthew 8:28; *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* We need to understand how much better it is to have this peace of mind and confidence in Jesus than it is to fret and worry throughout our lives.

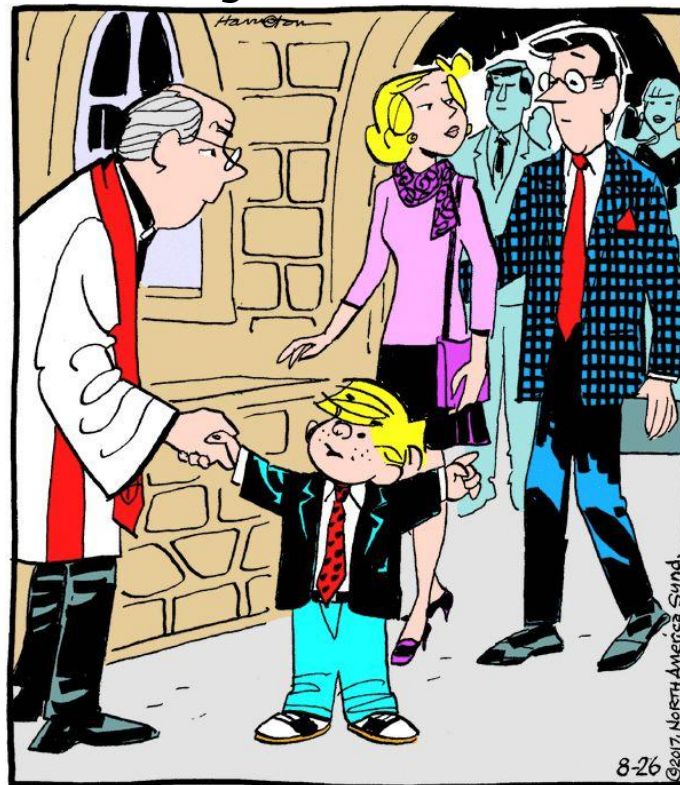
Yet, happiness often eludes us because of our guilt. Our conscience plagues us when we have violated what we know to be right. There are millions of people who go bowed down all their

lives through feelings of guilt about their misdeeds of their earlier years. How much better it would be to come to Jesus and let him lift the burden of guilt through forgiveness. Only the forgiveness that Jesus offers can remove this burden. In every area of our life, the answer to finding happiness is through Jesus Christ.

To enjoy happiness, there is no alternative to Jesus' way of life. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life"* (John 14:6) Jesus knows how to guide us away from the danger spots in life. If we will follow Jesus, heed His admonitions and strive to be like Him, our lives will be eminently happy.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



**"DAD ALWAYS LOVES YOUR SERMONS
WHEN YOU KEEP 'EM SHORT."**

**CHURCH IS NOT
SOMETHING YOU GO TO,
IT'S A FAMILY YOU
BELONG TO.**





Friends & Family Day!

We are so glad that you are here and we hope you are planning to stay for our Covered Dish Luncheon today.

Hospitality group 3 is in charge of the luncheon today. The members of this group are: LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Liela Klein, Lieza Klein, Tiffanee Klein and Trish Lout.

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Communion Preparation - September
Mike & Jana O'Brien



We hope you are making your plans to join us for our next Wednesday night Fellowship meal, September 24, 2025.



A whole new generation of Christians has come up believing that it is possible to 'accept' Christ without forsaking the world.

— Aiden Wilson Tozer —

Gene Bradshaw did not need stents but will need further testing for perhaps some lung problems. **Martha Bradshaw** is scheduled for a stress test this coming week.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law- cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Jane Adams Burkhalter** (Diedra Hughes' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Leta Dozier** (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Ted Holt** (former member of this congregation) **Wynell Lawson** (Diedra Hughes' aunt) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **J. C. Tate & Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Can you see by an eye of faith, Jesus, as he is hanging on the cross? He has been hounded, betrayed, denied, tried before an unjust court, led out of the city and nailed to a rough hewn wooden cross. Yet, hanging there, his first words were not a complaint. Though he was innocent, his first word was not a plea for his own innocence. Neither was his first statement a cry for vengeance against those who crucified Him.

Rather, Jesus first words from the cross were a prayer for forgiveness. A prayer for those who put Him there. He prayed, "Father, forgive them they know not what they do".

There is in our world today a pressing need for the grace of forgiveness. It is needed in our nation, it is needed in our community, it is needed in each individual life. There are many who are unstained from sensuality, free from immoral practices and they attend church services regularly. They can sing "O How I Love Jesus" louder than anyone in the building. Yet, these same people carry enough malice in their hearts to damn their souls to the fires of an eternal hell.

If we do not learn to forgive, malice will multiply in our souls and stifle every noble impulse. Hatred will rob us of the joy of the Christian life and the leaven of enmity will embitter us taking from our soul the sweetness implanted there by Jesus.

The prayer on our lips must ever be the prayer of Jesus, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do".

it's something to think about.....tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**