



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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HOW TO BE HAPPY

By Sid Womack, elder
Dover Church of Christ

Be happy is what everybody wants, right? And in today's society, the emphasis is on the bottom line, right? Minimize the details and "get right to it!" Okay . . .

The only way any of us are going to be happy is for us to walk close to God. We were created by God. God's Spirit longs after us if we aren't walking close to Him, creating unhappiness. There is no deep, lasting happiness, unless we are walking close to God. That's the **Big Picture** and the **Final Word**.

Now can we look at the details? That's not my verdict, it's God's. Just seeing the "bottom line" in the paragraph above didn't make you happy if you weren't already in a good relationship with God. It only suggested what the problem was.

For a very complete description of what there is in the world – a world that tries to get along and be happy without God – see the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament. It has twelve chapters and can be read in well under an hour. Solomon, the writer, wrote those words after having lived both close to God and not so close in his latter years. Solomon is proclaimed by Scripture as the wisest man who ever lived.

Not only was he the wisest, he was likely the richest, both of anyone before his time or after. In Ecclesiastes chapter 2 Solomon said he bought things – lots of **things**. They didn't make him happy; in fact, just having a lot of things made the "vanity," the emptiness, the meaninglessness only worse. Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 **"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income, this is also**

vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?" Hardly the words of a man who was both rich and happy.

In time Solomon acquired 700 wives and 300 concubines (prostitutes) (see Kings 11:1-3). God's eternal plan was and still is "one man, one woman, for life" (Matthew 19:7-9) and since Solomon was outside that plan, he was miserable. Was he sexless? Oh no. He describes this state of affairs as "man's delight" in Ecclesiastes 2:8. He likely experienced every kind of sexual pleasure a man could think of, with a thousand women helping him out in case he forgot anything. But still this did not bring him pleasure. Ecclesiastes 9:9, **"Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that He has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun."** He found that the greatest sexual pleasures were with one's one and only mate.

Later, he turned to academic learning, which Solomon described as "wisdom." The following passage shows that there is some gain in learning things, but just knowing a lot of facts does not give satisfaction in life. Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 – **"So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than darkness. The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. Then I said in my heart, 'What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?' And I said in**

my heart that this also is vanity. For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after the wind."

Solomon was at his wisest in Ecclesiastes 12:13, near the end of his life, when he said, **The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."** In the time of the Old Testament in which Solomon lived, keeping the Old Law with its 305 "Thou shalt" and 308 "Thou shalt not" was what God expected of the people at that time in order for them to walk with Him. In that time, keeping "The 10 commandments" and the 603 others that followed them was **the** way to be happy.

We live under the New Testament (read chapter 6 of Galatians if you want to see the proof passages), not the Old. We do not live in a time of animal sacrifices and keeping the Sabbath. Rather we live in a time of presenting our bodies, our lives, as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1,2). We being that life of happiness with God by hearing His word (Romans 10:17), believing that Christ is God's Son (John 8:24; Mark 16:16), repenting of one's past sins (Romans 10:9,10; Acts 2:38), confessing one's faith in Jesus as Lord (Matthew 10:32,33; Acts 8:37), and being baptized into Christ in order to receive forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21). This **begins** the happy life with God, but it is only the beginning. We are to continue worshipping with other Christians, partaking of the Lord's Supper, putting on God's spirit through prayer & Bible study.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Somebody's Mother

She stood at the corner alone and scared;
There was no light to allow her to cross.
Traffic was moving at a rapid pace.
Her legs were trembling; she felt at a loss.

People walked past the elderly woman
Who was afraid to cross the busy street.
Nobody offered her an outstretched hand
Or seemed to notice her unsteady feet.

Helpless but proud, she lingered quietly.
Then she heard a voice whisper very low,
"May I escort you to the other side?
I have a strong arm, if you'd like to go?"

She clasped her fingers 'round his steady arm
As he steered her quivering body along.
His mind wandered to his own dear mother
Whose body was once vivacious and strong.

He walked back to his waiting friends;
The thoughtful deed had brightened his day.
"Was that lady your mother?" someone asked.
"No," he replied, "but somebody else's,
I'd say."

*Barbara Cagle Ray
Christian Woman 2009*

*"And just as you want men to do to you,
you also do to them likewise."* (Luke 6:31)
Doing a good deed for others,
though it is not your mother, or your child,
it will indeed brighten your day.

And it is just a good thing to do!

pmc

Remember Our Sick

Amie Barkley – appointment in Denver
Thursday, March 5th.

Iris Bates – home, receiving therapy,
improving.

Hoyt Ensey – home, showing some
improvement.

Helen Moore – still receiving chemo
treatments for cancer.

Kristen Nordin – (age 25) severe pain,
running test, appointment Wednesday,
February 25th.

Leonard Oakes – Tommy Oakes' father,
home recovering from hospital stay.

Marge Ratchford – still battling cancer.

Sherry Strick – Brain tumors

Cara Waldo – grand-niece, age 4, of
Rachel Curtis, appointment February 26
with doctors to check for an enlarging
heart.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin

Evelyn Driver

Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Bob/Carolyn Bennett,
Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley,
Susie Boley, Tommy Causey, Troy &
Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis,
Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles
Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue
Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King,
Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Julie Moss,
Eugene Qualls, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reenie
Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend,
and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Garrett
Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee,
Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: D. J. Bandy, Travis Coe,
Byron Lee and April Morgan.

Beautiful Christian Sister

By: Maya Angelou

'A woman's heart should be so hidden
in Christ,

That a man should have to seek Him
first, to find her.'

When I say . . . 'I am a Christian' I'm
not shouting 'I'm clean living.'

I'm whispering 'I was lost, now I'm
found and forgiven.'

When I say . . . 'I am a Christian' I
don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need
Christ to be my guide.

When I say . . . 'I am a Christian' I'm
not bragging of success.

I'm admitting I have failed and need
God to clean my mess.

When I say . . . 'I am a Christian' I'm
not claiming to be perfect,

My flaws are far too visible, but God
believes I am worth it.

When I say . . . 'I am a Christian' I'm
not holier than thou,

I'm just a simple sinner who received
God's good grace, somehow!

Pretty is as Pretty does . . . But beautiful
is just plain beautiful!

*Sent in by Beverly J. Myers
Dover, Arkansas*

Clara Hefley has a grandson, **Billy Joe Ralston**, who recently joined the Marine Corp. to serve his country. Clara and other members of his family will be attending his graduation March 6th, in San Diego, California.

**H 4 H (Hunger for Healing),
Dover Church of Christ every
Tuesday, 6PM thru March 31st.**

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities
Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

2009
Lads to Leaders
Leaderettes
Overall Theme:
“. . . *All that You
command us we will do,
and wherever You send
us we will go.*”
(Joshua 1:16)

Please Note:
Time Change –
Move clocks forward
1 Hour
Sunday, March 8th.

No Dover Church in
home Youth Devos
for February or
March for 2009.

Mark Your Calendars

The song leading, songs
of praise and scripture
reading will continue
every Sunday, 5 PM, for
Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.
They are getting ready
for the Lads
To Leaders/Leaderettes
Convention, Memphis TN,
April 9th thru April 12th!

Dover Men's Devo
Thursday, March 12, 7 PM
Host: Jim Killer

Dover Ladies Night (Devo)
4th Thursday, 7 PM,
March 26th
Hostess: Diane C. Walters

DOVER LADIES' DAY!

April 25, 2009
Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas
Continental Breakfast and
Registration 9:00 AM
Program 9:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 Noon
Theme: “Today's Moments
become . . .
Tomorrow's Treasured
Memories . . .

MARCH Birthdays

02 Kelly McDonald
03 Keaton Creel
Rick Hollis
Aidan Pointer
05 Austin Myers
07 Sarah Ensey
Harold Turner
Colton Williams
10 Janette Litch
12 Carl Lawley
13 Matthew Moss
17 Jim Killer
21 William Boley
22 Alan Herron
25 Ethan Letson
26 Mike Creel
Shelby Statler
27 Wilma Johnson
Gary Shinn
28 Kaeli Miller
Elizabeth Robbins

If we missed your birthday, *please*
let us know so it won't happen
again.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4th
Camp Caudle 2-4 PM

Anyone interested in
helping contact:
Kim Miller

THOSE TO SERVE

March 08, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Jim Killer
James Chadwick

Communion

Podium: William Boley
Serve: Blake Walters
Brent Hottinger
Brett Walters
Chris Besterfeldt

Scripture Reading

Rex McDaniel

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Gary Williams
Earl Whitted

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Sandra & Alan Boatright

Communion to Shut-Ins

Jim Killer

Greeters

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Night Devotional March 11, 2009

Marion Helton

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes

6:30 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams

Church Office: 479-331-3428

Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer

Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ
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