

12-28-13

Scripture: Psalm 1:1-6

Title: Happy New Year

In a few days we will be wishing each other Happy New Year

What does this mean?

How can we have a Happy New Year?

What is happiness?

What is true happiness?

Something to consider at end of year, start of new

Many things can bring us happiness

Education

Friends

Family

Career

List goes on

Some things good, some not so good

We can make one thing our source of happiness...

What happens when things fall apart?

Our lives can fall apart

We can "diversify," seek happiness from several things

If one fails, we still have others

Still, can be difficult to maintain happiness...

There is one place we can focus our lives that can never fail

If we focus on this one thing – all others fall into place

One thing can really bring us happiness...

Will be getting to Matthew 5 eventually

Beatitudes, Sermon on the Mount

Blessed are the...for they will...

Matthew 6:20-21

20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

How do we do this?

How do we store our treasures in heaven?

If our treasure is stored in heaven...

Like us to look at Psalm 1 today

I believe it has the answer to these questions

True blessing, happiness is found only as we delight in Him

Delight in His Word

Like to work on memorizing it also

Be sure and pick up a copy to take home and study ☺

Psalm 1

Blessing

Psalms 1:1

How blessed is the man

(repeat several times)

Blessed

Do you want blessing in your life?

The word means "happy"

In the full sense of happiness

Moral, mental, and physical well being

Believers have here the secret to happiness

Real happiness, real joy

How do we get this happiness?

Some things to do

Some things not to do

Psalms 1:1

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Starts with what does not bring blessing/happiness

Happiness comes by avoiding what the wicked do

Wicked refers more to ungodly people

Those who have little or no time for God

People who have ruled God out of their lives

Ungodly have a different way of life

- *They **walk** in the counsel of the wicked,*

- They **stand** in the path of sinners,
- They sit in the **seat** of scoffers!

The ideas and philosophy of those who have rejected God
Those whose lives are not based on God or His Word

Ray Stedman – counsel/philosophy of the ungodly:

Me first;

Get it now;

Nothing bad will happen

This is the council of the ungodly

A life centered on God rejects these ideas

It is not a life focused on me, what I can get, what makes me happy – rather a life focused on God

Happiness comes from God, not ourselves

Walk

- *...does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,*
(**Repeat** – *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,*)

The path of these people is w/ the wicked

Walking along with (heading toward piano...)

Not walking with the godly

Loving the things of the world more

Not seeking godly counsel

Not seeking godly fellowship

Walking with, accompanying those not seeking the Lord

Listening to what they have to say

Following their direction, their counsel

Stand

- *Nor stand in the path of sinners*
(**Repeat** – *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners*)

Stand isn't the idea of resisting these people

It has the idea of being around these people

“Hanging out”

(leaning on piano – being w/ these people)

The place you spend your time

Where do you go and stand around, hang out

Word for *sinnners* – make a loud noise

Idea of provoking a riot

Creating a disturbance, making trouble

They “hang out” with noisy, trouble makers

That is their place to be

The godly should avoid these people and situations

Sit

- *Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*

(Repeat – *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*)

Not only do they stand w/ the noisy crowd

They sit with them (sit down on stool)

Becoming more settled, getting comfortable

Easier to leave from standing position

From sitting takes more effort

(Especially as getting older)

Settling in with this crowd

Those who blame everyone else for what is wrong

West Side Story

Officer Krumpky

Dear kindly Sergeant Krupke,

You gotta understand,

It's just our bringin' up-ke

That gets us out of hand...

Social disease

Sit around and scoff

Jeer, sneer, mock, ridicule, laugh at...

Scoffing at the godly, at believers

The Bible is often scoffed at today, looked down on

Christianity in general

What can a 2,000, 3,000 year old book say???

The self-centered ungodly person

Walks in the council of those who ignore, deny God

Stands with noisy trouble making people

Sits and scoffs at, looks down on God's Word and God's people

Delight in

Psalm 1:2 *But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*

(Repeat – How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD,)

Don't walk, stand, sit

Do delight...

God's Word should be the joy of our lives

A lady writes: My three young children love to get up early and watch out the window for the garbage truck. They take great delight in watching the waste hauler empty the can, then work the lever that causes the truck to compact the trash.

On the morning of my thirty-fifth birthday, my husband said to the children with a smile, "Kids, do you know what makes today so special?"

It should have been no surprise to us when our 5-year-old rushed past my outstretched arms to the window and replied, "It's garbage day!"

Comment

We **delight** in God's law

Law – Torah - instruction

What is that?

When this psalm written

Generally meant first five books

The Law – Torah

Today this applies to all of God's Word

God's revelation to us

God's Word reveals the truth

Truth about who we are – sinners in need of salvation

Truth about who God is – One who provides salvation
through His Son, All-powerful Creator

We should desire God's Word

Psalms 119 – speaks much of God's Word

Reveals what our desires should be

Psalms 119:103

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste!

Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalms 119:18

18 Open my eyes, that I may behold

Wonderful things from Your law.

In 2014, ask God to give you greater desire for His Word

Meditate on

- *And in His law he meditates day and night.*

(Repeat – How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.)

Meditating – s. we don't do much

I always think of the nun from Sound of Music

Sitting there, just sitting there w/ her hand on her face

Meditation on God's Word doesn't have to end when your devotional time is over. You can continue the blessing by taking Scripture with you throughout the day.

Some people memorize a passage or write it on a card so they can have it available to read when they get a few moments. An engineer uses his coffee breaks to continue his reflection on God's Word. Homemakers attach verses

to the refrigerator or bathroom mirror. Truckers put portions of the Bible on their dashboard.

Leslie B. Flynn tells of a brilliant college student who volunteered to work at a church camp and ended up as the designated potato peeler. A friend who admired her intelligence said, "It's too bad you had to end up peeling potatoes." She replied, "I don't have to think about potatoes while I'm peeling them. So I think about my Bible verse for the day."

The psalmist indicated that he didn't read God's Word and then forget it. He meditated on it all day (119:97). Likewise, the "blessed man" of Psalm 1 reflected on God's Word "day and night" (v.2). And when the Word of God is in our minds from morning to night, we'll be more likely to obey it and far less likely to violate it. That's the value of ongoing meditation.

How often do we take time? (Have time? Make time?)

Just sit and think

No music, no games, no TV

Think and focus on God, His Word

Memorizing scripture a good way to do this

Start here w/ Psalm 1

Meditation – not some eastern, mystic religious experience

Speaking to yourself – (Not talking to yourself)

Speaking God's Word in your heart

Mulling it over

Ruminating – as a cow w/ its cud

Pondering it (Leslie's grandma)

Thinking about it

Dwelling on it...

In 2014 make time to meditate on God's Word...

Grow deep

Psalms 1:3

*3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
(Repeat – How blessed is the man who does not walk in
the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of
sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is
in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates
day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by
streams of water,)*

*Plains of Colorado, few trees
Can drive for some time and see none
Occasionally you'll see a loan tree, large tall cottonwood
Why is it there? What made it grow clear out here?
When nothing else does...
Likely some source of water
Sometimes an old windmill
Old watering hole of some kind
Dry creek bed
Tree has set down roots, Deep roots
Withstand harsh climate of plains
Strong winds cannot blow it down*

When we don't walk in the council of the wicked,
Delight in His word instead
When we don't stand in the path of sinners
Meditate on His word day and night
When we don't sit in the seat of scoffers
We are firmly planted, like trees on the plains...
Firm and deep roots
Giving us nourishment and stability
Delighting in and meditating on God's Word does this

*(Repeat – How blessed is the man who does not walk in the
counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit
in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a*

tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season)

Conclusion

What is the source of happiness in your life?

What is the goal and focus?

Is your delight in the Lord, in His Word?

If you want the happiness God desires

Don't walk in the council and guidance of this world

Don't stand on the same road/path as these people

Don't scoff at the truth of God's Word

Start w/ repentance and trust...

Delight yourself in and meditate on God's Word

Spend time in it

Think about it

Live by it

Will you make God's Word your focus this New Year?

Several options available on table in fellowship hall

Commit to a month, a year, three years

Commit to memorizing, meditating on God's Word

Benediction:

Joshua 1:8

8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Sermon outline

12-29-13

Psalm 1

B_____

W_____

S_____

S_____

D_____ in

M_____ on

G_____ deep