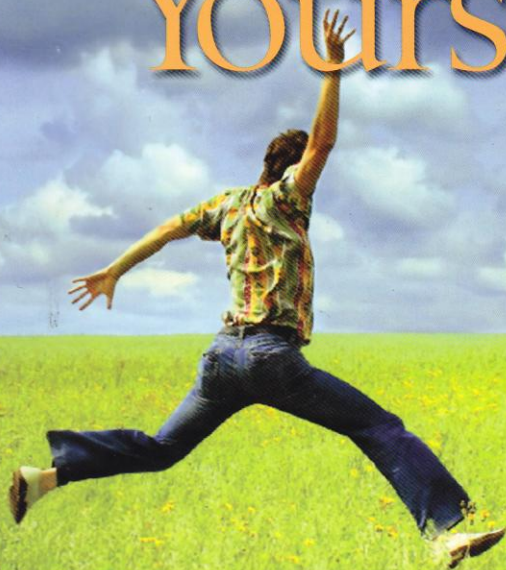


How to Be
Happy
in Spite of
Yourself



Several years ago while visiting friends in a hospital, I was approached in the hallway by a nicely-dressed elderly gentleman who began speaking in disjointed, incoherent phrases. As I tried to make sense of his conversation, a nurse walked up and said to me, "Excuse me, sir, Mr. Smith [not his real name] must go back to his room now" I was somewhat taken aback since the gentleman looked like the Chief of Surgery, not a patient. As he was leaving on the arm of his nurse, Mr. Smith turned to me and with a great big smile across his face proclaimed, "Happy, happy, happy!" Each time I encountered Mr. Smith during my subsequent visits to that hospital, he would smile pleasantly and joyfully declare, "Happy, happy, happy!"

Obviously, that's *not* the kind of happiness most of us would be anxious to have!

The "pursuit of happiness" enshrined in the Declaration of Independence seems as elusive as ever today. If any of us are going to achieve genuine happiness, it certainly appears that it will have to be in spite of ourselves. Mankind is in such a pickle today that it is almost impossible to function in an environment where everything is "falling apart" and the world is on the verge of a global catastrophe of some kind or another. The rich and famous are not immune, either. Just look at the latest scandal coming out of Hollywood or the political and economic capitals of the world – or the natural disasters that strike rich and poor alike without warning. Nor are those who live the "simple life" happy. They scrape by on a meager existence, barely able to feed their families or run from the latest war or famine.

And despite a concerted effort by academia and the intellectual elite to tout the values of atheism, religion and the search for “spiritual fulfillment” are on the rise! Since the growth of the anti-establishment counterculture in the 1960s, well over 1,000 new religious groups have been started. And although most of these religions have little in common with the message of the Bible, there is one common denominator — the search for happiness!

This explosion of religion has spawned hundreds of psychiatric, sociological, theological, and scientific articles attempting to discover why so many people are flocking to the strange and often self-denying confines of these new faiths. Not surprisingly, there is little agreement on the root causes — or on the effect that such a social phenomenon will produce. However, threading through the various analyses are stories from these cult followers who are searching for meaning, happiness, and stability. Most are frustrated with their personal situations, as well as world conditions. Many express disillusionment with promises by people of influence. They yearn for peace and satisfaction. When a strong, charismatic leader promises a solution for change that can be embraced along with social acceptance by peers, those who follow literally jump at the chance to reject the situation they do not want and surrender to that philosophy or system or faith that promises happiness.

Unfortunately, religions and spiritual awareness are much like the delusional state of that poor gentleman in the hospital. Just as a crazy man can find happiness in

his insanity, so a religious man can find happiness in his religion. Religious people often appear to be looking for non-rational answers to their hopes and dreams, doomed to have those hopes dashed when they discover that the “answers” come from natural phenomena after all. Christianity, some would especially argue, is merely the result of a blind, credulous faith that is comparable to the rejection of reality by an insane person.

Is genuine happiness obtainable in this life? Can *anybody* truly have it? Or are we all stuck with an existence that must resort to the deluded “happy, happy, happy” state of the mentally ill in order to find joy?

The Promise of Triple Happiness

Fortunately, true happiness not only exists, but it is within reach of those who pursue it in the right way. In fact, one Person — the Creator God of the Bible — promises that a three-fold happiness is obtainable.

Blessed [lit. “happy”] is the man....
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3)

These words promise the *happiness of peace and stability* (the tree by the water), the *happiness of continuous productivity* (the fruit and the healthful leaf), and the *happiness of*

repeated success (“whatever he does shall prosper”). Happy!
Happy! Happy!

It would be hard to formulate a more inclusive statement of that which characterizes happiness. Whatever those words mean, it is surely a promise for a successful and effective life.

God’s Preconditions for Happiness

Understanding what these three promises provide is exciting, but before we get carried away with the benefits, we need to understand that there are certain conditions that must be met before the promised results are realized. As a matter of fact, these requirements help underscore the beauty of the blessing that God guarantees. The conditions make the condition. The qualifications produce the quality! Even though these promises are as sure as the God who promised them, those who refuse to meet the necessary criteria will never experience the triple happiness promised.

First, do not walk “in the counsel of the ungodly.”

The Psalm itself lists the three most obvious reasons for that requirement:

- ✦ “The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away” (v. 4) – an ungodly people are completely unstable. “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked” (Isaiah 57:20-21).

- ✦ “Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous” (v. 5) – God won’t have anything to do with ungodly people. “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens” (Hebrews 7:26).
- ✦ “For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (v. 6) – ungodly people will die (often too soon in this life, in addition to an eternal death separated from the Creator). ‘And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6).

The biggest problem with this barrier to happiness is that our “normal” existence is so alien to the spiritual and supernatural that our intellect is “blinded” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and we are unable to submit (be “subject”) to God’s information (Romans 8:7). Even with a “religious” background, we are still unable to understand the basics of God’s life of happiness for mankind – unless God changes us Himself!

Nicodemus was one of the best educated theologians of his day, but even though he genuinely wanted to be right in his thinking, he simply failed to understand Jesus’ explanation of the spiritual life.

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which 'is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" (John 3:1-9)

Unless that new spiritual birth has happened to you, you will be just as perplexed as Nicodemus — and just as unhappy!

Before any of us can realize the peace and stability, continuous productivity, and repeated success promised by the God of creation, we must be "birthed from above" by that God of creation. Those promises are only fulfilled when we refuse to "walk in the counsel of the ungodly" and embrace God's good news.

...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John1:12-13)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel. . . .For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:8-10)

Before we go any further in this discussion about happiness, let’s be sure that the foundation for happiness is based on the only One who can provide it – Jesus Christ. Nicodemus was a “good” and very “religious” man. But he was spiritually dead and not happy. He needed what you and I must have – a “spiritual” birth gifting us with the eternal life of the Creator and granting us the forgiveness of all sin. That sets the stage for living out the life of happiness promised in the Scriptures.

But even after God has brought about spiritual birth, it is entirely possible to become a casualty of the spiritual battle between “the counsel of the ungodly” (Psalm 1:1) and “the counsel of the Lord” (Psalm 33:11). The “wisdom” of the world system is an exceptionally powerful force that will generate both error and unhappiness. Submitting oneself to such influence makes it entirely possible for a “good” person – even a Christian person – to be ruined by an ungodly worldview.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written... “The Loin knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)

But in spite of all these cautions, here’s the empowering hope for our happiness! Once the new birth has taken place in our life, we are given the *ability* to “hear” and to “understand” the information that God has made available to us. We are given a new mind (1 Corinthians 2:16), a new heart (Hebrews 8:10) — indeed, we are made a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). It now becomes possible to be happy!

Second, do not stand “in the way of sinners.”

But the second precondition for happiness is just as important. We are told not to “stand” in the “way” of sinners. The word choices in this phrase are really interesting. The Hebrew word translated “stand” has a connotation that relates to “being a part of something.” It usually implies “remaining” somewhere or “maintaining” a position, attitude, or action. It is even used to indicate “service” of or for a cause. That’s a bit stronger than the English translation seems to indicate. Consider these passages, for instance.

For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it

stood fast.... The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. (Psalm 33:9-11)

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here." (Zechariah 3:7)

It seems pretty clear that the warning is to avoid becoming a "practitioner" or a "constituent" of a way of life that the "sinners" embrace. Simply put, we are not to maintain the lifestyle or continue in the behavior of those who are ungodly.

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass onThe way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. (Proverbs 4:14-19)

Proverbs uses the imagery of "darkness" to describe the environment in which the wicked person walks. That picture is repeated many times in the Scriptures. You don't have to be a scholarly philosopher to know that you will take on the characteristics of the people with whom you maintain relationships. I'm sure you remember the old cliché "Birds of a feather flock together." That piece of pithy wisdom has come down through the years because it is so obviously true. If you "hang around" with sinners, you will become one.

In contrast, the godly person has been changed from a "dark" lifestyle to "light."

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (Ephesians 5:8-11)

The “counsel” we embrace leads us to associate with others of like mind, which inevitably immerses us in a lifestyle that reflects both the counsel and the relationships we choose.

It works this way:

- ✦ What we believe determines how we think.
- ✦ What we think dictates what we do.
- ✦ What we do dominates our life.

It’s no wonder that David says it is impossible to be happy if you are “standing” in the way of sinners. Everybody knows that “you reap what you sow” (2 Corinthians 9:6). There are dozens of renditions of that Bible truth enshrined in everything from simple slogans to academic tomes. Everybody knows it’s true, but we often forget that you reap *more* than you sow. That is also a biblical principle (John 12:24).

Ungodly people live ungodly lifestyles that will ultimately bring pain and sorrow into their lives. If we choose to “stand” with them, we will ultimately “sow” their lifestyle and participate in their “reaping.” “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33). On the other hand, “standing” with godly people will bring the “fruit” of “love,

joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Third, do not sit in the “seat of the scornful.”

The third major requirement for happiness is that we must refuse to “sit in the seat of the scornful.” What’s that? It sounds like something we might find at an amusement park. The best way to find out what a Bible phrase means is to find out how the key words are used. In this case, we need to know what the scorner/scoffer is like. There are several references about this kind of person in the Scriptures, but the easiest ones to discover and understand are found in the book of Proverbs. Let me list them for you very quickly.

- ✦ A scoffer does not listen to rebuke. (Proverbs 13:1)
- ✦ A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it.
(Proverbs 14:6)
- ✦ A scoffer does not love one who corrects him.
(Proverbs 15:12)
- ✦ A proud and haughty man — “Scoffer” is his name; he acts with arrogant pride. (Proverbs 21:24)
- ✦ Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; yes, strife and reproach will cease. (Proverbs 22:10)
- ✦ And the scoffer is an abomination to men.
(Proverbs 24:9)

A scorner is somebody who won’t listen to instruction, is incapable of finding wisdom, is always cantankerous, and dis-

gusts just about everybody. I don't know about you, but I definitely do not want to be identified as a scorner! Scoffing/mockng people will only produce a wretched condition, making us listen to things that are ineffective and incorrect.

And to think that some would choose to sit in the "seat" of the scornful! Surely that would not apply to most folks, but the term "seat" really means "home" or "dwelling place." Those who don't have a home (who are confused about what they believe — or can't make up their mind) often "move in" to the most ostentatious "house" they can find. The home of the scorner is easy to locate. Since the scoffing person' is egocentric, everybody knows where he lives. Since he doesn't believe in much of anything, his "house" is big and spacious — with enough "room" for anybody who can't decide on truth. Trouble is, the house is always in bedlam! It's no wonder we cannot be happy if we are making ourselves at home with the scoffer.

Happiness Is in God's Law

Not only does the happy Christian avoid the counsel of the ungodly, the way of sinners, and the seat of the scornful, but he is actively involved in learning righteous instruction.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2)

This is not a description of a dutiful servant fulfilling an obligation to be obedient, it is a "happy attitude" — the heart of

genuine desire that wants to find out what God has revealed about how “things” work! Surely the Creator of the universe and the Sustainer of life knows best how to function within the confines of the world we live in. Here’s where the “counsel” we listen to makes a huge difference! Ungodly counsel doesn’t come anywhere near the Scriptures. It is focused on the “common wisdom.” Godly counsel says, “Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble” (Psalm 119:165).

Ungodly slogans tell us to “grab all the gusto you can; you only go around once in life!” Or that “no good deed goes unpunished.” We are told to “just be yourself” and that we should “let the good times roll.” Since “the sky’s the limit,” it is suggested that “it is easier to ask forgiveness than to get permission.” These and hundreds more such god-less clichés sprinkled throughout our culture misdirect behavior away from God’s law and from His Word. Even such “religious” overtones as “have it right by the time your maker comes to collect” are far from the Truth.

“Common” wisdom, sinful “ways,” and mocking “homes” do not lead to happiness!

The Substance of Stability

Do you remember the “triple happy” promised in the Psalm? God promised us the happiness of stability, the happiness of productivity, and the happiness of success. The psalmist describes that marvelous condition of stability through the analogy

of a beautiful tree by a riverside. Jeremiah picks up on the same theme and amplifies it this way:

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Loan, and whose hope is the Loan. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

And then another...

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Loan shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Loan is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. (Psalm 92:12-15)

This “stability” portion of happiness is far more than a mere “unruffled” stoicism in life — it is a promise that secures us in the times of adversity and lasts into a productive old age. Even more, it promises stability into and throughout eternity!

The Proficiency of Productivity

But the “triple happy” also promises a productive life. Nobody likes to be thought of as unproductive. No matter what our background, we appreciate being recognized as valuable in whatever situations we are serving. One of the most common

causes of depression is the feeling of “worthlessness.” No person who has been spiritually born through the great grace of God is worthless – they are priceless! That “purchase” cost God His only begotten Son. But well beyond that, those who live godly lives are given Jesus Christ’s own promise of productivity!

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (John 15:16)

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (Matthew 13:23)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

Maybe this is a good time to make sure we are reminded that spiritual “fruit” and the “good works” of Scripture do not necessarily equate with the acquisition of worldly resources. God does, of course, promise that we will always have enough resources to accomplish what He assigns us to do (Matthew 6:33) since He knows that we have such needs (Luke 12:30). However, the “real” fruit, the lasting fruit – the fruit that God is helping us produce for eternity – comes as the result of a focus on the only two things that are eternal: the souls of humanity and the Word of God.

Simply put, godly people are productive. They produce the “fruit” of righteous people – fruit that follows the instructions in God’s revealed Word and that impacts the souls of men for eternity. And they are genuinely happy while doing it.

The Surety of Success

Stable...productive...and successful. Ah, how that term rolls easily off the tongue. Success. SUCCESS! Everything in the so-called American dream fairly yells for success. But success in God’s eyes does not necessarily mean “rich, powerful, and well-known.” We may be granted material prosperity. Many men of the Scriptures did have riches. But we are frequently warned in Scripture not to seek physical wealth (1 Timothy 6:6-11). The “rule” for the godly person is best expressed by the great missionary pioneer Paul.

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:12-13)

Well, if we are not necessarily promised physical prosperity, what kind of prosperity are we promised? If godly success doesn’t necessarily mean things that I can easily identify as “successful,” how will I ever know if I’m happy or not? It all ties back to the “delight” that the “happy” man has in the law of God. Here’s a good set of instructions that God gave to General

Joshua long ago.

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7-9)

The great and wise King Solomon also gave us good insight for this marvelous blessing.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. (Proverbs 3:5-10)

King David, Solomon's father, taught the same thing to his children — and to us.

Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the

Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He
shall bring it to pass. (Psalm 37:3-5)

What a marvelous collection of promises! If we observe the commonsense requirements of Scripture to stay away from the people and things that are evil, if we turn our attention and our affections on the words of Scripture, then we will find ourselves becoming as stable in our Christian life as a great tree is when its roots sink deep down into the well-watered, rich soil of the riverbank. Not only that, but we will see our lives develop into productive, fruit-bearing co-workers in the kingdom of God. Our lives will be enriched with the delightful characteristics of the Holy Spirit Himself. And, finally, we will have good success. God will use us most completely and effectively for His glory in His kingdom – doing works that last for eternity!

Truth's Great Liberty

One final thought. A biblical message that is inscribed on the portals of many institutions of higher learning is "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That is taken from Jesus Christ's message to the Jews during His earthly ministry – and is taken terribly out of context.

The quotation is from John's Gospel, chapter 8, verse 32, right in the middle of a debate with the religious "legalists" of Jesus' day (the Pharisees). The focus of Christ's message was the contrast between His message ("I am the light of the world") and

the horrible end of those who would reject His message (“you will die in your sins”). The debate went from bad to worse as the listeners ultimately became so enraged at His message that they “took up stones to throw at Him.” So much for an open mind.

Jesus started His public declarations with a sharp focus on proclaiming the purpose of His incarnation and the goal of His ministry.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

The reason Jesus left the courts of heaven was to “rescue” us from terrible ignorance – ignorance of Truth, ignorance brought about by the “counsel of the ungodly” “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” Jesus proclaimed. “No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). Apart from the Creator God revealing Truth through His Word (both the Person and the Writings – John 1:1-3 and 2 Timothy 3:16), you and I would never be able to “hear” or “understand” or “know” Truth.

Perhaps the most often used simile for Truth is the term “light.” There is certainly no question that Jesus compares His message of Truth with “light.” If we want the “liberty” of Truth, we must come into the “light” of God’s revealed Word.

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than

light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God. (John 3:19-21)

It is entirely possible for us to claim to follow God (religion, morality altruism, etc.) and yet be far, far away from His Truth. Indeed, it is absolutely necessary that we “walk in the light” if we are to enjoy the fellowship and benefits of the omnipotent and omniscient God of eternity.

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

The Demands of Delight

Here’s the “key” to the happiness promised in the Psalm: “his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night” (v. 2). Just as the promises of stability, prosperity, and success are the result of godly living, godly lifestyles are the result of a *desire* (delight) to follow the teaching of Scripture. John Zebedee (one of the 12 Apostles) put it this way: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John

5:3). Perhaps the wisest ruler ever to hold authority in all of human history was King Solomon, the king that brought the nation of Israel to its zenith and golden age. His collection of “proverbs” (in the Bible book by that name) give us wonderful insight on how to obtain the understanding of God’s Truth – so that we can experience the reality of the liberty and happiness that God longs to give us – through His Word.

My son, if you receive [fetch, take out, carry away] my words [sayings] , and treasure [save, hoard] my commands [precepts] within you, so that you incline [attend, heed] your ear to wisdom [discretion, intelligence] , and apply [stretch out, bend] your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out [seek, require, beg] for discernment, and lift up your voice [grant, bestow, appoint] for understanding, if you seek [n. “inquisition”] her as silver, and search [search as a spy, disguised] for her as for hidden treasures [riches] ; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find [discover, uncover] the knowledge [information, truth] of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness [justice] and justice [ability to judge], equity [evenness, right things, agreement] and every good path [agreeable, pleasant, beneficial]. (Proverbs 2:1-9)

Happy, happy, happy. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Do you have that abundant, happy life? It's available. The formula is clear for all to see. Won't you follow it?

Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so,

But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,

Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

(Psalm 1:1-5)



*By Dr. Henry M Morris III, Chief Executive Officer of
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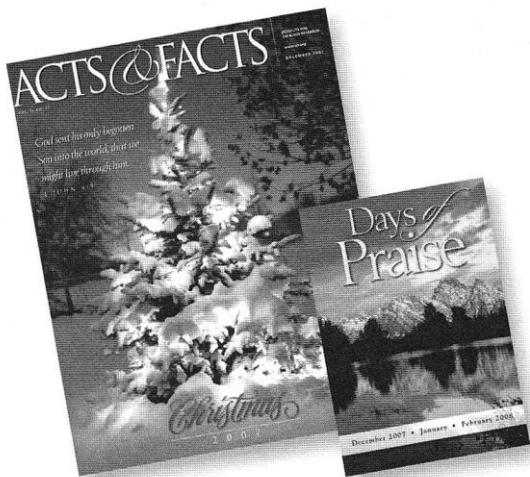
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