

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
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(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

September 20, 2009

"God wants me to be happy"

by David King

"Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you" (Psa. 128:1-2).

I have often heard people defend their action in leaving an unhappy marriage or entering into an illicit relationship by declaring, "God wants me to be happy." That statement has been used so much that it has passed into popular culture as a universal "given." Nobody questions it.

If you have used this defense yourself — or are thinking about using it — please take a few moments to ponder a couple of questions.

First, how do you know that God wants you to be happy? Where and how did He reveal this to you? Do you have some kind of message from God to this effect, or are you just **assuming** that God wants you to be happy?

Second, let's assume for sake of this discussion that God does want you to be happy. Have you considered **how** He wants you to find that happiness? In other words, the course of action by which you hope to find happiness may not be God's preferred choice. Perhaps He wants you to find happiness by another route. Again, how can you be sure that this path is God's will for your life? Where and how has God communicated this to you?

If you cannot give concrete answers to these two questions, there is a good chance that your reasoning is just wishful thinking based on misguided emotion. If it is not a firm conviction based on solid evidence, then you are trusting your soul to a hunch — and that's

dangerous. Remember, "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

With these two questions before us, let's return to our opening text. It directly addresses both questions.

First, note that happiness is indeed a gift from God. "You shall be happy" is clearly identified as a blessing from the Lord.

But notice also that this happiness is promised only to the one "who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways." In other words, the happiness that God gives us is the result of a higher objective: obeying His word. "Happy is he who keeps the law" (Prov. 29:18).

The lesson here is not hard to figure out, but it is difficult to accept: **happiness is not our ultimate objective in life.** Happiness is only a by-product of a life dedicated to honoring God. When we live the way God wants us to live, we will find a joy that the storms of life cannot touch. "Happiness" achieved through any other means is a cheap imitation.

Because this happiness is predicated on obedience, it will very likely not come without some sacrifice. Sometimes doing God's will can be counter-intuitive, even painful. But we must trust God to know what is best for us.

Now go apply this new knowledge to your situation. Yes, God wants you to be happy. But he has not left it up to you to define that happiness. Instead of chasing an ephemeral emotion, focus on just one thing: What is the **right** thing that God wants you to do? Do that, and you will find a joy beyond compare.