

Doesn't God Want Me to Be Happy?

By Joe Slater

This question usually refers to superficial happiness such as a child feels when given a new toy. Such earthly pleasure isn't necessarily wrong, but neither should we think it is God's chief goal for us! He certainly approves when we "eat and drink and enjoy the good of all (our) labor" (Ecclesiastes 3:13). As Solomon found, though, such enjoyment cannot fill the God-shaped void in the heart of every person.

A man who had been unfaithful to his wife tried to rationalize his sin by asking me, "Doesn't God want me to be happy?" He had confused "the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:15) for true happiness.

Undoubtedly Jesus could enjoy a good meal and the satisfaction of a job well done. For those perceptive enough to see it, His sense of humor shines through. We should not view Him as perpetually melancholy and forlorn. Yet Isaiah portrays Him as "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (53:3). What makes us think we, as disciples of Jesus, are entitled to continuous gratification because "God wants us to be happy"?

The imprisoned Paul knew what it was like to have everything he needed and to be in want. "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11-12). Evidently, he didn't believe the modern "prosperity gospel" ("gospel of health and wealth").

Genuine Biblical happiness doesn't depend on your outward circumstances! Being faithful in a covenant relationship with God results in happiness nothing of this world can match! When that's your concept of happiness then yes, God wants you to be happy!

Proverbs 16:20

He who gives heed to the word will prosper, and happy is he who trusts in the LORD.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

December 5, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Unity: Part 2

Paul is preaching today

Scripture Reading: John 17:20,21

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** December 8th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew, chapter 23.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** December 19th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, December 7th, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Chapter 4, Day 1.
- ❖ **5th Sunday Singing- January 30th at Ithaca. (?)**



- **Covid 19:** We ask, but don't demand, that we all be **kind and considerate regarding keeping others safe**, including wearing masks if you think you should, staying away if testing positive for Covid, and getting tested if exposed.
We have done well! So far nobody has contracted Covid through church services here in Sayre, or any of our activities.
- **Keep the MAGI box items and money coming in!** Thank you to all who have been so generous! We have all the T-shirts we need. We welcome ideas for good quality, inexpensive **little boys' shorts**. We also need some **little games or dolls, etc. for 5-7-year-old girls, small rubber balls** for all the kids (50) and **underwear** for 25 little boys and 25 little girls. **Flip flops** too! We have 2 pairs so far. We need **9 more little dresses**, if anyone likes to sew.
- **We will be planning another Carol Singing on the Porch for this year.** We are considering Thursday, the 23rd. There is a possibility we can do it on the Wednesday, but that isn't sure yet.
- **Liz and Abby Barry are staying with their grandparents, Sandy and Arthur, for a while until Robin's family can move into their house in Louisiana.**

PRAYERS

- **Jackie** was scheduled to return to her home (with Darlene) yesterday from Sayre Health Care Center, where she was staying while she recovered from her hip surgery.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's), **Steve and Amy's neighbor Pat lost her sister JoAnn to cancer last week, Pat Gutherie** (lung cancer).
- **Pray for our MAGI box project** which will be sent to children in Honduras, ages 5-7. Deadline: May 1st.
- **Arthur** is planning to have surgery to remove his cancer at the end of December, beginning of January. He will speak with his surgeon tomorrow. We pray for a full recovery.
- **Miki's friend Larry Freeman** was in the hospital with congestive heart failure. He sought a second opinion and has been sent home with medication. Thank the Lord!
- **Darlene has asked for prayers for her friend Connie** who used to teach with her at Epiphany. Connie has advanced stage lung cancer and wants prayer for peace and healing.
- **Dawn's niece, Bobbie's, husband, Arthur Hardison** has been in the hospital for 2 months with Covid. He recently had emergency surgery for blood clots and is currently in ICU on a ventilator. Please pray for him.
- **Paul's little granddaughter Mia, age 6, has a lump near her eye which has been tested for lymphoma. Please pray that the test is negative. Her sister Hannah, age 9, has a broken wrist as a result of a bike accident.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.