

How to Have a Happy New Year

On this 1st day of January the beginning of a new year we will look at some Biblical Principles of Happiness. The Hebrew word <'esher>, written 45 times, is translated 'happy' 18 times and 'blessed' 27 times.

You can have a Happy New Year if you do not reject God's reproof:

Job 5:17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

A man who accepts God's discipline will be a happy man:

Psa 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

EVERY child of God will be admonished by Him for their own good.

If you are not chastened by God then you do not belong to Him:

Heb 12:5-11 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

- 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
- 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
- 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence:
shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
- 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
- 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

You can have a Happy New Year if you have God's wisdom and understanding. In Hebrews 12:5-6 (where we just read), God reminded us of the same 'happiness through chastening' principle, as it was quoted from:

Prov 3:11-18 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;
neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;

even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,
and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver,
and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies:

and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand;

and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her:

and happy is every one that retaineth her.

We are assured of our Heavenly Father's love for us through His chastening,
which is designed to cause us to be eager to change our mind

and bring our actions into submission to His will:

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:
be zealous therefore, and repent.

'Dispensationalists' and in particular, those who identify themselves as 'mid-Acts', reject the idea of saints being 'chastened' by God in the age of grace, even though Paul, who they claim to follow, specifically said we are:

1 Cor 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord,
that we should not be condemned with the world.

You can have a Happy New Year if your home has lots of children.

Would you call it a Happy New Year if you were given a million dollars?

Or would you pay a lawyer for 'Money Control'

so you could REFUSE an inheritance?

Would it be a Happy New Year if you were going to have another baby?

Or do you use 'Birth Control' to PREVENT pregnancy

because you don't want 'GOD's gift'?

Psa 127:1-5 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late,
to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD:
and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

God's word teaches that a large FAMILY brings happiness not MONEY:

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil:

which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith,
and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Living a godly life, obeying the Lord's word, working for what you have
and want, rejoicing with your family. This is happiness with contentment:

Psa 128:1-4 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD;
that walketh in his ways.

2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands:
happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house:
thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

You can have a Happy New Year if you have the LORD as your God:

Psa 144:15 Happy is that people, that is in such a case:
yea, **happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.**

This is true on a PERSONAL level:

Prov 16:20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good:
and **whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.**

This is also true on a NATIONAL level as "one nation under God":

Psa 33:12 **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;**
and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Just as the 'RIGHT' brings people UP; so the 'WRONG' takes them DOWN:

Prov 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation:
but sin is a reproach to any people.

Naturally, people want a ruler who is fair, that can be respected in the world:

Prov 24:23-25 These things also belong to the wise.
It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.
24 **He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous;**
him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:
25 **But to them that rebuke him shall be delight,**
and a good blessing shall come upon them.

People are happy when just leaders are in the majority "in God we trust"

.... but they are sad when their governors are ungodly:

Prov 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice:
but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Nations should be guided by lawfulness not led by lawlessness:

Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish:
but **he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**

You can have a Happy New Year if you serve others. Jesus told

His disciples that the greatest one among them would be their SERVANT (Matt 23:11-12). He told them that they would be happy if they helped other people the way He did. Their Lord and Master washed their feet:

John 13:15-17 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

God's word must be ACTIVE (not dormant) in your life to produce happiness:

James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Did you follow Jesus' 'Recipe for Blessing' during your recent holiday meal?

Luke 14:12-14 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

'Mid-Acts-ers' refuse 'earthly' Jesus' words, even though Paul quoted them:

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (also 1 Tim 6:3)

You can have a Happy New Year if you are 'chosen of God':

Psa 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest,
and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

In the OLD testament, Israel was God's chosen people, the people He loved:

Deut 7:6-8 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you,
(Psa 135:4, Isa 44:2) because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Jesus Christ Himself was "the chosen of God" (Luke 23:35, 1 Peter 2:4).

Jesus told His disciples to rejoice because their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20), in the Lamb's book of life (Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5, 21:27).

In the NEW testament (Acts 10:41), Jesus chose His disciples:

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,
(Matt 13:9-16, 16:13-17; Acts 15:7) and ordained you,
that ye should go and bring forth fruit,
and that your fruit should remain:
that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

"The elect" are those "whom He hath chosen" (Mark 13:20). Paul was one:

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him (Saul - Acts 9:11,
whose name was changed to Paul - Acts 13:9), Go thy way:
for he is a chosen vessel unto me, (also Acts 22:13-15)
to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Rufus ... whose Cyrenian father Simon bore the cross of Jesus (Mark 15:21),
was also mentioned by name, as being "chosen in the Lord" (Rom 16:13).

God has chosen the "foolish" "weak" "base" "despised"
 NOT many "wise men after the flesh" or "mighty" or "noble" (1 Cor 1:26-19)
 so no flesh should glory in His presence. When Jesus Christ returns
 from heaven as "Lord of lords, and King of kings" (Rev 17:14, 1 Tim 6:15)
 "they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Eph 1:4-5 According as he hath chosen us in him
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
 5 **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus**
Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

'Mid-Acts-ers' and other dispensationalists teach that God's 'chosen'
 were not 'chosen to SALVATION' but 'chosen to a particular SERVICE'.
 While it is true that God chose certain men to do a special DUTY, it is also
 true what Paul, by inspiration of God, wrote to the CHURCH (2 Thess 1:1):

2 Thess 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God
 for you, brethren beloved of the Lord,
because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation
through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

You can have a Happy New Year if you trust and hope in the LORD:

Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD,
and whose hope the LORD is.

You have a 'blessed' (same Greek word <makarios> translated 'happy')
 hope looking for the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour
 Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13) Who will bring His kingdom (2 Tim 4:1) then:

Matt 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come,
ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom (1 Cor 6:9-10, 15:50;
 Gal 5:19-21) prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

If you love the LORD your God His kingdom is your inheritance:

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

You can have a Happy New Year if you patiently suffer through trials:

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Just like Israel our love for God **initiated** with His love for us:

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

To bravely and calmly persevere during persecution brings happiness:

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure.
Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord;
that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

You can have a Happy New Year if you have these characteristics:

- Matt 5:3-12** Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.
- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven:
for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matt 11:6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Out of weakness we are made strong and valiant (Heb 11, 2 Cor 12:9-10):

1 Peter 3:8-14 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that **ye should inherit a blessing.**

10 For he that will love life, and see good days,
let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

13 And who is he that will harm you,
if ye be followers of that which is good?

14 **But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye:**
and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**

16 **Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.**

17 **For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.**

Blessing comes from fiery trials that are for Christ's sake (1 Peter 4:12-13):

1 Peter 4:14 **If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye;** for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

You can have a Happy New Year if you know you are forgiven for sin:

Rom 4:5-8 But to him that worketh not, but **believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**

6 Even as David also describeth **the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,**

7 Saying, **Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.** (Psa 32:1-2)

8 **Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**

This is David Dowell saying, "Happy New Year, and think about it!"