

HEAVEN

&

HAPPINESS

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Heaven and Happiness

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HEAVEN & HAPPINESS

God has given us only two basic themes in His Word: how to go to Heaven—His message to sinners; and how to be happy while waiting to get there—His message to Christians. Numerous passages in the Bible bear this out. When Jesus said, *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”* (John 10:10), He was speaking of two different things.

First, He came to give life, eternal life, to all who will receive it. Then He came to give abundant life, which speaks of happiness. Life is birth; abundant life is growth and maturity.

John 10:9 states, *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved....”* That is talking about being saved; that has to do with going to Heaven. The rest of the verse says, *“... and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”* That is talking about feeding and growth; that has to do with happiness.

John writes, *“And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ”* (I John 3:23). If one does what this part of the verse says, he will be saved and will go to Heaven when he dies.

The rest of the verse reads, *“And love one another, as he gave us commandment.”* If we practice what this part says, the result will be happiness.

The first parts of all three of these verses relate to God and

going to Heaven. The last parts of these verses relate to people or surroundings and have to do with adjustment, growth, maturity or development, resulting in happiness.

On one occasion, Jesus was approached by a lawyer who asked Him, *“Master, which is the great commandment in the law?”* (Matt. 22:36). In other words, *“Which commandment is the most important?”*

Some religions teach that murder and adultery are mortal sins, while some of the other sins, such as lying and stealing, are petty or venial sins. Of course, the Bible doesn't teach anything like that. Sin is sin! Jesus knew that all the commandments were equal, as did the lawyer, so his question was not a sincere one. The lawyer hoped that Jesus would contradict the Law of Moses, in the answer to this trick question, by putting one commandment ahead of another.

However, Jesus knew that *“whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”* (Jas. 2:10). Then, with great wisdom, He answered the question by saying that the first and great commandment is, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind....And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”* He then added, *“On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”* (Matt. 22:37–40).

But what about the Ten Commandments? Jesus said there are only two commandments. One relates to God, and the other to my neighbor. If I am right concerning the first commandment, I can get into Heaven, and the second will help me have happiness.

Jesus is saying that all that the Law and prophets had to say is summed up in these two basic truths. This is a summary of the Old Testament. So, in the New Testament, Jesus said that the whole Mosaic Law said only two things: Love God and love your

neighbor. Obedience to one command will get you into Heaven; obedience to the other will help you find happiness.

The first eleven chapters of Romans deal with doctrine; the last five deal with deportment. One section is creed; the other is conduct. Believing one will get you into Heaven; practicing the other will help you find happiness.

The first three chapters of Ephesians teach how to go to Heaven; the last three chapters teach how to be happy.

The first two chapters of Colossians deal with how to go to Heaven; the last two chapters show how to be happy.

In thirteen of the fourteen books written by the apostle Paul, the beginning few verses wish his readers grace and peace. Grace brings salvation—what it takes to get into Heaven; peace is the result of grace—what it takes for you to be happy.

Paul teaches that we receive the ‘gift of the Spirit’ (Acts 2:38) when we get saved; then he speaks of ‘gifts of the Spirit’ (Heb. 2:4). One is given to the sinner to make him a Christian; the other is given to the saint to help him find purpose for his life. Here again, are Heaven and happiness.

The theme of the Book of James is “faith versus works.” Faith is necessary to go to Heaven; works are necessary to find happiness.

The Great Commission shows us the same truth. “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16:15) tells us Jesus wants us to get sinners saved so they can go to Heaven. The second part of the Great Commission is “*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*” (Matt. 28:20). This second part is to help new Christians find happiness. One part of the disciples’ commission has to do with faith; the other has to do with works.

The Ten Commandments are given in Exodus 20 and repeated in Deuteronomy 5. The first four commandments relate to God; the other six relate to people. Once again, we see God's two Bible themes—Heaven and happiness.

First John 1:7 shows that to “*walk in the light*” with the Lord results in “*fellowship one with another.*” In Hebrews 6:1, we read that we are to rest in our salvation experience and “*go on unto perfection.*” Both are Heaven and happiness verses.

Literally, dozens of such verses tell us that God wants all sinners to get saved and all Christians to be happy.

THE MESSAGE FOR THE SINNER

The first thing a sinner must realize is that he has a sin problem—not *sins* (plural), but *sin* (singular). The problem is not what a person has done or is now doing but who he is. It is not lying, stealing, killing or committing adultery that will keep a person out of Heaven. The problem is inherited or “original” sin. David put it like this: “*I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin [singular] did my mother conceive me*” (Ps. 51:5).

Paul gave the New Testament counterpart to David's Old Testament statement when he said in Romans 5:12, “*Wherefore, as by one man sin [singular] entered into the world, and death by sin [singular]; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*”

Paul continued in Romans 6:23: “*For the wages of sin [singular] is death.*”

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, He did not receive a sinful nature by inheriting Adam's sin. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's body and born without a human father.

Not only was He born without sin, but He lived His entire

life without sinning. He asked on one occasion, “*Which of you convinceth me of sin?*” (John 8:46).

The apostle Paul wrote, “*He [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*” (II Cor. 5:21).

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His ascension to Heaven and for the ministry of the Holy Spirit with them, He said,

“It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

“Of sin, because they believe not on me;

“Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

“Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”—John 16:7–11.

Man is not a sinner because he has sinned or is sinning; he is a sinner because he was born a sinner. The degree of man’s sinning will be related to his exposure to sin and temptation and the influence of others around him.

According to II Corinthians 5:21, Jesus was born without a sinful nature, lived without sinning, then became a sinner on Calvary’s cross to pay for our sin (singular). Then He sent the Holy Spirit to explain and help us understand exactly what He had done.

Once we see that sin is fully paid for, we accept Jesus Christ

as our Saviour and completely put our trust in Him and Him alone. No longer do we have the problem of sin. The sin question is settled once and for all. We now can go to Heaven when we die.

It is wonderful to get the sin problem settled and not be faced with it over and over again. However, our sins (plural) are not settled when we get saved. (We deal with this in the next segment of this message.)

THE MESSAGE TO THE SAINTS

When one becomes a Christian, he is ready to learn how to be happy. If we are to be truly happy, it is important that we have a good understanding of the difference between sin and sins.

Our inherited or original sin is gone. In Hebrews 9:26, we read that the Lord has “*put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*” David rejoiced in this: “*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered*” (Ps. 32:1).

Wonderful truth!—*we are through with sin forever!* Oh, that it were true of sins, but that is a different story. We Christians have our share of problems with our sins.

The sins of Christians fall into two categories: sins of omission and sins of commission. The sins of omission are committed when we omit or leave undone the things we should be doing. If a believer does not get baptized after getting saved or does not attend church, he will be guilty of a sin of omission. He may not pray, read and study the Bible, give tithes and offerings or do some other things that the Bible teaches Christians to do.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit brings something to mind that calls for a decision or some action. Not to respond to the impression of the Spirit would be a sin of omission.

On the other hand, the sins of commission would be doing things that we, as Christians, ought not to do. Christians do tell lies, steal, hate, cheat, commit adultery and sometimes even kill. In fact, a Christian could commit just about any sin. The Bible is filled with examples: David committed adultery; Peter lied and denied the Lord; Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit; Noah got drunk; Abraham lied to Abimelech—on and on it goes.

Sins of omission lead to sins of commission. When a person does not maintain a healthy devotional program and daily walk with God, he soon begins to think the wrong things, say the wrong words, feel the wrong feelings and go to the wrong places. Since one thing leads to another, we must nip sins in the bud. A believer must practice preventive medicine or preventive maintenance.

In almost fifty years of being a pastor in three great churches, I have had hundreds come to me for counseling. Numbers of these told me stories of failure and sin. I heard stories of adultery, unfaithfulness, stealing, lying, corruption, greed and all the rest. Almost every time, I would tell the folks, “If you want me to help you, you must tell me the whole story.” Then I would add when they finished, “You are holding out on me; you are not telling me everything.”

Usually, they would respond by saying, “Preacher, I am telling you everything. I don’t know anything else to tell you.” Then when I questioned them on their prayer lives and devotions, almost without exception, they would confess, “I’m not doing very good in that area, Preacher.”

It stands to reason that if I have eaten a solid meal, I will not be as likely to be tempted with pies, cakes, ice cream sundaes or banana splits loaded with zillions of calories. On the other hand, if I am hungry from not eating for a long time and tempting desserts are offered, it is more likely I will indulge in fat-producing food,

then hate myself later.

Now, to be victorious, happy Christians, we must grow and mature to the Spirit-filled life. We are to *“desire the sincere milk of the word, that [we] may grow thereby”* (I Pet. 2:2).

In a study of the Spirit-filled believers of the early church in Jerusalem, I found seven steps that led to the outpouring of God’s Spirit and brought great joy and blessing.

The first of these was

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

In Peter’s sermon to a great crowd gathered outside the Upper Room, he quoted the prophet Joel: *“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Acts 2:21). He did not say ‘*might* be saved’ or ‘*could* be saved’ or ‘*would probably* be saved,’ but **“SHALL BE SAVED.”** Salvation is not a hope-so but a know-so matter!

The apostle Paul testified, *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”* (II Tim. 1:12). There is no *maybe*, *probably* or *hope so* in his statement. Paul had the matter settled. He knew he was saved. He was trusting the Lord to get him into Heaven.

Notice that he did not say, “I know *what*,” but **“whom I have believed.”** His faith was in Christ, not in a doctrine or catechism.

The apostle John wrote, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life”* (I John 5:13). John says we can know with assurance that we are saved right now.

Soul winners are taught to ask people, “If you died right now, are you one hundred percent sure that you would go to Heaven?”

Many people answer, “I hope so,” or, “I think so,” or, “Possibly.” Some say, “I don’t think we can know whether we are going to Heaven until we get to the judgment seat; then we will find out.” Of course, all those answers disagree with the Word of God.

Years ago, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I talked with a small boy about Heaven. When I asked him, “Would you go to Heaven if you were to die right now?” he answered, “I don’t know.” I asked him, “Would you like to know?” He stated, “I would.”

I read Acts 2:21: *“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* Then I asked him, “Can you read?” He said he could. “Will you read it then?”

In a faltering, grade-school manner, he slowly read through the verse.

“You did really well,” I commented. “Now I will read it again while you look at the words.”

As I read it through slowly, he followed along. Then I changed the words *“shall be saved”* to “might be saved.”

“Hey! It doesn’t say ‘*might* be saved,’” he blurted out. “It says ‘*shall be saved.*’”

That boy saw something a lot of college professors have never seen, and multitudes in churches haven’t seen that either. The Bible doesn’t say anything about ‘might’ or ‘probably’; it says *“shall be saved.”*

Fanny Crosby wrote a great song, “Blessed Assurance.” One stanza says:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

For a Christian to be happy, he must have this matter settled and know with certainty that if he were to die today, he would go to Heaven.

The second step toward becoming a truly happy Christian is

BAPTISM

Does a person have to be baptized to be saved? No. Baptism has nothing to do with going to Heaven, but it is a step leading to happiness.

However, the Bible does speak of a spiritual baptism, and this *is* essential to going to Heaven. When Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth, he explained, *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,”* referring to spiritual baptism into the family of God (I Cor. 12:13).

The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, meaning “to submerge, dip under, incorporate into, or make a part of.” When we get saved, the Holy Spirit “incorporates” us into the body of Christ or “makes us a part of” the family of God. That is our salvation experience. We cannot go to Heaven without that!

However, when the pastor baptizes one in water at the church, he is “incorporating” him into or “making him a part of” the local church family.

The baptism of the Spirit is the real thing, and water baptism is a picture of the real thing. One is necessary to go to Heaven; the other is necessary to be happy.

Peter stated, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for [because of] the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38). Here he was speaking of water baptism, the purpose of which is to see whether we are

going to be willing to do what God wants us to do. If He can get us started by obeying Him, He will then be able to lead us to happiness.

He wants every Christian to be happy. He knows that if we will obey in this kindergarten command to be baptized, we will probably be obedient in the grade school and high school level commands, then grow quickly into maturity and happiness.

Since baptism is the very first thing the Lord asks of a new believer, it is vitally important to submit to baptism as soon as possible after salvation. Delay usually sets a pattern that will show up in many other things the Lord may ask of you.

In Acts 8:36, the eunuch saw a body of water and asked, *“What doth hinder me to be baptized?”* Philip told him if he believed, he could be baptized, and Philip baptized him.

I like the spirit of a boy back in Elkton, Maryland. When he came to our Sunday school for the first time, the teacher found that he wasn’t saved, and she led him to Christ. Then she told him to go up into the auditorium. He had not been around church, so he did not know what an auditorium was. The teacher then told him that the pastor (he thought a pastor was a place where cows eat grass!) would give the sermon. (He had no idea what a sermon was.) The teacher said, “As soon as the pastor finishes his sermon, he will give an invitation.” (What was an invitation?) “At that time, you go forward and make a profession,” she continued. (He did not understand that either.) “After your profession, then you can get baptized,” she said. (Again, he had no idea what the teacher was talking about.)

He went out into the hall. When he saw all the other boys going up the stairs and into the auditorium, he followed. When he got in the auditorium, everyone was seated except me. I was behind the pulpit getting ready to start the service.

When he saw me, he figured I must have something to do with what the teacher was talking about. With every eye on him, he came down the aisle and up on the platform, got hold of my coat, yanked on it and said, “Hey, buddy! I want to get advertised!”—the wrong word, but the right idea. What he was saying was, “I’m not sure what I’m supposed to do next, but whatever it is, let’s get at it!”

That’s what the Lord wants from all of us. He does not expect us to have seminary degrees in theology before we get baptized and start serving Him. Baptism is a step of obedience to the divine command of our Lord and is vitally essential to happiness.

If we are to be happy, we also must be actively involved in a local church. So the third step is

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

It is said of the early church in Jerusalem in the Book of Acts, *“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”* (2:47). Paul speaks of the churches of Galatia (I Cor. 16:1). John gave God’s messages to seven individual churches in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3.

In each of these references, the emphasis is on a local church or a group of believers. These groups of baptized believers, gathered together for worship, instruction, inspiration and involvement, are part of a greater group called the *“body of Christ”* (I Cor. 12:27).

Many groups or denominations use the term “church” to define their whole organization, such as “the Catholic Church,” “the Methodist Church,” or “the Presbyterian Church.” There is no such thing as “the Baptist Church,” but there are thousands of Baptist churches.

Does one have to be a member of a church to go to Heaven? Of course not. Church membership or even church attendance

has nothing to do with going to Heaven, but church membership, attendance and participation have everything to do with happiness.

The Bible exhorts, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Heb. 10:25).

Since the sixties, many have turned away by reasoning and “logic” to worship God in nature. They “meet God” in the woods or on a mountain or at the lake. This sounds good, and some fool themselves into finding satisfaction in it, but it is not what the Bible teaches.

Years ago, I went into the mountains of Pennsylvania to hear Dr. Lee Roberson preach. The meeting was in a hotel ballroom, and several hundred people were there from many backgrounds. A large number were not members of local churches but attended here and there as they felt led.

Dr. Roberson sensed the situation and dealt with the issue very strongly, saying, “I know what the problem is with some of you. You are church bums and church tramps. You jump around like a bunch of toad frogs and jackrabbits! Why don’t you get right with God and get into a local church and get busy serving the Lord?”

I was impressed by his frankness and boldness, and I was more influenced than I realized.

Several months later, I was preaching in revival services in Norfolk, Virginia. When I came to the part of my message that dealt with responsibility in the local church, I blurted out, “You church tramps, you church bums, you bounce around like a bunch of toad frogs and jackrabbits! Why don’t you get right with God?”

At the invitation, a big sailor came down the aisle and fell on the altar. He almost broke the railing. Tears flowed down his cheeks.

I went immediately to help him. “What’s your problem, buddy?” I asked. (I was sure he would tell me that he had robbed a bank, killed a policeman, or was guilty of adultery.)

“I’m one of those ‘church bums’ you were talking about. I’ve been here in this area for three months now and haven’t joined a church yet. Pray for me that I will get right with the Lord and do right.”

To be fulfilled, victorious, happy Christians, we must do it through the channel of local churches.

The early Christians had assurance of their salvation, they had followed Christ in believer’s baptism, and they were members of a local church—but they also had a fourth program:

BIBLE STUDY

Does a person have to study the Bible to get to Heaven? Once again, Bible reading or Bible study has nothing to do with getting into Heaven, but it is related to being a happy Christian. Joshua was instructed to *“meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”* (Josh. 1:8).

David wrote:

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not

wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”—Ps. 1:1–3.

Paul explained:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”—II Tim. 3:16, 17.

James tells us, *“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”* (Jas. 1:25).

In each of these verses, we are urged to saturate ourselves with Scripture. If we are scripturally minded, then we will be able to act in a spiritual way. I do not believe it is possible to be spiritual unless we are scriptural, for they go hand in hand.

Scientists say that our minds are built something like a turtle. The brain or conscious mind is the turtle’s head, and the subconscious mind is the turtle’s body.

What we absorb comes through one of our five senses: seeing, tasting, feeling, hearing or smelling. (Some people are blessed with two extra senses—horse and common!)

When faith, truth and light come to us through our senses, they are channeled through the conscious mind into the subconscious mind for storage and recall. David touched on this when he wrote, *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (Ps. 119:11).

Jesus illustrated this when He was tempted by the Devil. Each time Satan subtly suggested disobedience, Jesus said, *“It is written...”* followed by a Scripture command. Then the Devil departed, for he cannot win when Scripture is used against him.

For a believer to continue in victory and happiness, it is essential that he daily absorb the fresh truths of the Bible.

The fifth step to happiness and spiritual maturity, according to the formula of the early church, is

PRAYER

Once again, prayer plays no part in getting one to Heaven, but it is a part of the formula for happiness.

It is actually possible to get answers to all our prayers. Dr. John R. Rice so often reminded us that God delights to hear and answer our prayers. George Mueller used to say that God answered all his prayers. What a wonderful thing it would be to get everything we pray for!

The Bible plainly says it is possible to get an answer to every prayer. John wrote: *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you"* (John 15:7). If my will is in agreement with God's will, the petition will be granted.

John adds to that:

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

"And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."
—I John 5:14, 15.

God is pleased when we walk in harmony with Him. *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight"* (I John 3:22).

The Bible speaks of walking in the Spirit. When we walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit, He is willing to assist us with our praying and gives us assurance that our prayers have been heard and will be answered. Paul explains: *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered”* (Rom. 8:26).

With these basic qualifications met, we are able to ask and receive, seek and find, knock and have it opened to us.

Years ago, while in college, Mrs. Wallace and I one day prayed for food for our lunch. A neighbor lady knocked on our door while we were still praying. She was holding two cans of tuna fish in her hands. She said she had been cleaning out her cupboards and found the two cans, and since they did not like tuna, she wondered if we could use them. God answered our prayer before we were finished praying!

On another occasion, I prayed that the Lord would provide for us in such a way that I would be able to continue with my job of visiting for our local church. If He didn't, then it would be necessary for me to get an eighthour-a-day job, which would prevent my concentration on continuous daily soul winning for the church.

In just a few days, a man told me to go by the back door of a cafeteria and pick up some supplies. I found there was plenty of food for both lunch and dinner. This man had arranged for me to go there every day, seven days a week. This went on for over two years. God had opened a meal barrel that wouldn't run dry! The Lord had again proven Himself to me.

On still another occasion, I prayed for some suits for three days—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Sunday, a classmate

asked me to bring our family to their house for the Sunday meal. After the meal, he took me into his bedroom and showed me eight brand-new suits. He had been to South Carolina to visit his brother, who owned a clothing store, and his brother had given him the suits. My classmate gave me three of them. This was another direct answer to prayer!

During my early ministry, someone broke into my office and stole the recorder that we used for our daily radio broadcast. It was vital to the work, and I felt led to pray for its return. A few days later, one of our churchmen told of buying a piece of recording equipment from a man for a small part of its value. Then he heard about our loss. When he realized that he had bought our recorder from the thief, he brought it to the church. Once again, God answered our prayer!

Prayer is not a condition of going to Heaven, but it is essential for being a happy Christian.

The sixth step toward abundant Spirit-filled living is

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Giving tithes and offerings, like baptism, church attendance, Bible study and prayer, has nothing to do with getting one into Heaven; but it too is a step of obedience.

The early Christians sold their possessions and gave the proceeds to help care for the needs in the Jerusalem church.

Selfishness and stinginess are barriers to the freedom of the Holy Spirit's working in our lives.

The Bible clearly spells out God's instructions in the matter of giving. We are taught to bring our tithes into the storehouse (Mal. 3:10). When the Prophet Malachi accused the people in his

day of robbing God, they reacted sharply: “*Wherein have we robbed [God]?*” Malachi answered, “*In tithes and offerings*” (vs. 8).

Most of God’s blessings and benefits are preceded by conditions. As we must flip the light switch on the wall before the room fills with light, so the Bible clearly states that if we obey in giving tithes, God will “*open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it*” (Mal. 3:10).

We read in the New Testament in Luke 6:38: “*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*” Here the amount and size of the measure given to the believer are conditioned upon the amount of his giving. In other words, “*Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*” (Gal. 6:7).

While out visiting in Knoxville, Tennessee, many years ago, a young pastor and I were riding along in my car. He turned to me and asked, “Brother Wallace, are you a tither?”

“Of course I am,” I told him. “Why would you ask me a question like that?”

Without answering, he continued: “Are you an Old Testament or a New Testament tither?”

“I have no idea,” I answered. “Is there a difference?”

“There certainly is,” he replied. “How much money do you make each week? One hundred dollars?”

He hit it right on the head. The church paid my utilities, furnished me with a car, and gave me one hundred dollars weekly.

“When you get your hundred dollars each week, do you give ten dollars to the Lord?”

“Yes.”

“Then you’re an Old Testament tither,” he said. “What is a New Testament tither?” I asked.

“Well, you give ten dollars, and the Lord sends you one hundred dollars; then you give another ten dollars, and the Lord sends you another one hundred dollars.”

“What’s the difference?” I asked.

Without answering my question, he asked, “How have you been getting along?”

I stated frankly and honestly, “I have almost starved my family to death.”

“The way you’re going about it, you will keep on having a hard time,” he said. Then he asked, “Could you use two hundred dollars a week?”

I assured him that I could find something to spend it on.

“Do you suppose you could use three hundred dollars a week?” he continued.

“This conversation is starting to get very interesting!” I remarked.

He told me that I had been sowing for one hundred per week, but if I wanted to get two hundred or even three hundred, I would have to sow according to what I would like to reap.

I looked across the seat of my car and told that young preacher, “Brother, you just got yourself a convert!”

I went back to my church in Maryland and started giving twenty-five dollars each week in the offering. To this day, I have had no pressure, no hardship in finances. God has supplied our needs in a miraculous way through these years.

A farmer operates on this principle. If he wants a wheelbarrow load of corn, he plants a certain number of grains of corn. However, if he wants a pickup truck or a trailer load of corn, he will plant accordingly.

The Lord is not trying to get my money for Himself. He is trying to get me to plant enough to produce a harvest that will adequately meet my needs.

Happy people have discovered the secret of giving and receiving.

Finally, the believers in Jerusalem were involved in an active program of

SOUL WINNING

Happiness is a new baby's being born into a home. In the beginning, God arranged for all His creation to reproduce after its own kind. This is true in the spiritual realm as well as in the physical, natural realm.

Jesus is called the "groom" in the Bible, and the church is referred to as the "bride." In normal circumstances, a bride and groom will produce fruit after their own kind in due season. Just so, Christians should bring new babes in Christ into the family of God.

We are told that "*daily in the temple, and in every house, they [the early church] ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ*" (Acts 5:42). The Bible also says, "*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*" (Acts 2:47).

A young couple came to see me during my early ministry. Pat was a member of our church. Her boyfriend, Bob, wanted to know if I would perform their wedding ceremony. I asked about their

salvation. Pat knew she was saved, but Bob did not know if he was.

“Bob,” I explained, “the first thing we must get settled is this: We do not allow our saved girls to marry unsaved boys.”

“Pat told me that,” he said, “and that’s why we have come to talk with you. Can you help me with that?” Then I led Bob to Christ and had the joy of officiating at their wedding.

After the wedding, they moved away for a couple of years, then moved back to our area and became active in our church. Bob got a burden for soul winning. He asked if he could go out visiting with me so he could learn to witness.

At my invitation, he came to our visitation program on Thursday evening. After a time of instruction and inspiration, we picked up some prospect cards and walked to my car. Bob had a pad and pencil ready to take notes on everything that happened.

I suggested that we pray for our first prospect, Bill Smith. After the prayer, Bob wrote on his pad, “We prayed for Bill Smith.”

When we arrived at the house, I suggested that we pray again before going in. He took out his notes and wrote, “We prayed again.”

As we walked up the walkway to the Smith home, I told Bob that the soul winner’s manual tells us not to talk: “There might be a sleeping dog in the backyard and a fellow who has just been chewed up by a German shepherd will probably not make a good presentation of the Gospel.”

Bob wrote again on his notepad, “Be quiet. Don’t wake up the sleeping dog in the backyard.”

On the porch, I cautioned Bob not to talk there either. “The manual says that if people hear you talking before they hear the knock on the door, they will get spooked.”

Bob wrote again, “Don’t talk on the porch.”

“According to the guide,” I explained, “we should not knock on the door ceremoniously but suspiciously. A knock at the door with a musical tune or rhythmic beat will cause those inside to wonder who the wise guy is outside. A suspicious knock or a steady, loud knock about five or six times will make them want to come and see who is there.”

Bob brought his notes up-to-date.

The door opened, and Mrs. Smith recognized me. “Oh, Pastor Wallace, do come in!”

I introduced Bob, and she introduced me to her husband, Bill. I complimented them on their pictures, Bill’s deer head with ten points, his mounted bass over the fireplace, and even the children. In a few minutes, I got into the Bible and gave Bill the Gospel step by step. Soon we were on our knees, and he gave his heart to Christ.

Bob wrote it all down.

After we left the Smiths, we went to our next call to pray for a sick lady. “Before you pray,” she said, “I’ve been thinking about getting saved.” I quickly led her to Christ.

As we started to leave, her son, who had been listening, asked, “Does that work for teenagers too?” I prayed with him, and he, too, received Christ.

Bob got so excited that he forgot about taking notes! We won four more that evening, and Bob didn’t write down another note!

When a student or anyone learning how to witness gets caught up in it, it won’t be long before he forgets the mechanics and begins to enjoy the thrill it brings! Dr. Curtis Hutson, a very effective soul winner, said, “Soul winning is caught, not taught.”

CONCLUSION

To be happy as a Christian, I must have assurance, be baptized, faithfully attend church, study the Bible, pray, give tithes and offerings and win souls to Christ.

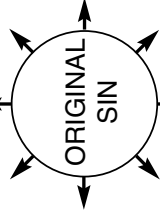
It is vitally important that I separate the matter of becoming a Christian from living the Christian life. One will get me into Heaven, and the other will make me a happy Christian.

By their obedience to these basic steps, the early Christians were filled with the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Spirit results in the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (Gal. 5:22, 23). These attributes are available to every believer. Take advantage of them.

God loves all of us. He wants everyone to be saved and go to Heaven. He also wants every believer to be happy.

Dear reader, if you have not taken advantage of either of these benefits, please don't put it off any longer. Open your heart and invite the Lord Jesus Christ to come in and get you started on the road to Heaven and happiness.

God's Message to SINNERS



RESULTING SINS

I — SIN
Rom. 5:12

II — JUDGMENT
Rom. 6:23

III — CHRIST
II Cor. 5:21

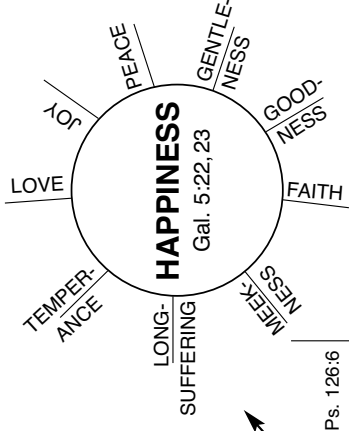
IV — SALVATION
Rom. 10:13



God's Message to SAINTS

SINS

- Commission (Commit)
- Omission (Omit)



Ps. 126:6

SOUL WINNING

Mal. 3:10

TITHING

Matt. 7:7

PRAYER

II Tim. 2:15

BIBLE

Acts 2:47

CHURCH

Acts 2:38

BAPTISM

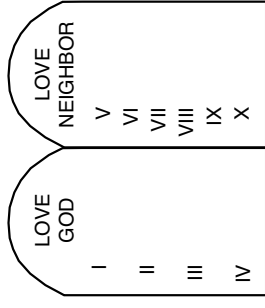
I John 5:13

ASSURANCE

HAPPY ZONE (John 10:10)

MISERY ZONE (Heb. 12:6-11)

EXODUS 20
10 COMMANDMENTS
(Matt. 22:37) (Matt. 22:39)



Relationship to God
HEAVEN

Relationship to Man
HAPPINESS

HEAVEN & HAPPINESS

God has given only two basic themes in His Word: how to go to Heaven (His message to sinners); and how to be happy while waiting to get there (His message to Christians). But so many people even yet do not understand the “how-to’s” of either message.

In *Heaven and Happiness* Dr. Wallace gives the undiluted truth regarding baptism, church membership, Bible study, prayer, tithes and offerings, and soul winning. Are these qualifying factors for receiving salvation? Are they really necessary for happiness? Or are they merely “religious” badges of honor? Dr. Wallace answers these questions and more.

This booklet is beneficial for preachers, Christian workers, new converts and individual Christians of all ages. Parents will find it an invaluable tool in explaining salvation and the essentials of a happy Christian life to their children.



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