

## Why Only Goodness Brings True Happiness

### Happy are they which do hunger and thirst after

**righteousness:...** Matthew 5:6 There is in every man, woman, and child the imprint of the creator of mankind. This is clearly seen in the desire of everyone to be justly treated. We are hurt and angered when we are wronged. Just have your spouse cheat on you or have your home robbed. Let someone lie about you or slash your tires. Have someone steal your child or force your car off the road into a ditch. No matter how trivial or serious the event, we all resent and hate to be treated unjustly. Unfortunately we do not always have the same sense of justice when we wrong others. They were either stupid or deserved it. We almost always have to have a justification, at least in our own mind, when we cheat on the spouse or cut someone off in traffic. This clearly shows the impact of the sin of pride on the human race. We do not care to do unto others as we would have them do unto us if we feel the need to get our own way.

**Happy are they that preserve justice, and he that does righteousness at all times.** Psalms 106:3 Many years ago God told a proud man if he did right he would feel right (happy) but if he did wrong he would feel unhappy. You see the imprint of the creator cannot be escaped. We are moral beings that can never be happy trying to live immorally or without good. The hunger for righteousness, though dulled many times in our treatment of others, is still very sharp when it comes to how we are treated by others in this life. When we fail to treat others justly we destroy our own happiness because we have failed to live up to what we were created to be by God. Our sense of guilt for wrong is not just a feeling, it is feeling based on real moral guilt for acting unjustly and God is letting us know about it by our unhappiness which reflects His displeasure about our wrong doing. **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever you do; you will receive from God the just consequences for it.** Galatians 6:7 Unhappiness is only one consequence of injustice. The drunk may die of liver cancer but may also, if he or she abused others when drunk, die alone, friendless and despised and hated by children and spouse. Consequences many times are far reaching and hard to recognize as the result of one's sins. Moral guilt about our sin is not something God ignores. The justice of God is

perfect. Each and every sin will be punished by our creator. The principle we have in law of punishment that fits the crime comes from a clear understanding of God's justice. Most time it is innate in the soul of the human heart. We just know the man who murdered our loved one should suffer the same pain of death. We never have a sense of closure and real justice being done until perfect justice is executed. **And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened:...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** Revelation 20:12 Moral guilt has consequences that go beyond this life. The creator God does not let His offspring run wild and not try to rein them in. He is not the parent in the supermarket that lets his children run wild with no more than a "Now, honey, be good and I'll give you a treat," rebuff. Every man and woman will stand before the judgment bar of God and answer for what they have done. **...He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth.** Psalm 96:13 The justice of God demands real punishment for sin not just empty words of disapproval. Many think as long as we have done nothing really bad God will let us slide by. As true knowledge of God becomes less in this age we feel secure and confident in our ignorance that everything will work out in the end. The reality is God judges based on His standard of truth and righteousness not our relativistic romanticism. (The irrational belief everything will turn out all right.) He has set Himself, in all goodness, as the standard we all have to measure up to. **...it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands,...** Romans 3:10-11 When compared to the completely righteous, perfect, just God, none of us is as good as He is. In our pride we will not let ourselves admit it. So He warns us of our sin's consequences and tries to turn us back to Him.

**Since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the God is... (like what man thinks) ...this ignorance (of) God He overlooked; but now commands all men everywhere to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath appointed; and He has given assurance to all men, in that He has raised Him from the dead.** Acts 17:29-31 The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is significant because it guaranteed God will judge all. For when God's justice required His sinless Son to die for mankind's sins

as the only way to grant forgiveness of sin, it showed plainly all sin will be judged and punished. For when Christ was raised it proved that His death for sins was acceptable to God's justice. The 500 eyewitnesses who still were alive when the gospels were penned attested to the truthfulness of the event and its significance. The Romans inability to produce His body after watching Him die and guarding His tomb gave even more verification He raised from the dead. **Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** John 14:6 There can be no escape from accountability. It leaves room for only one response. We either repent or suffer the punishment for sin. When Jesus said He was the way, it was not boastful: it was factual. No one could do what He did but Him. Only a sinless man could suffer for someone else's sins and satisfy God's justice. If he had sinned he could only receive punishment for His own sins. Without sin He could suffer punishment for all who would repent and receive God's grace for forgiveness by simple faith. **For by grace are ye saved through faith:... it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.** Ephesians 2:8-9