

"How to Find True Happiness"

Text: John 13:17

-John 13:17, teaches how to find true happiness

- "If ye know these things" = knowledge

- "if ye do them" = obedience

- "happy are ye" = happiness

- Knowledge + Obedience = Happiness

- The reasons many Christians are unhappy:

- They may know their Bible but do not put it into practice.

- They do not do what the Word of God commands them to do.

- They are not obedient to the Word of God.

-Illustration:

- In Philippians 4:4-6, provides the knowledge for an anxiety free or worry free life.

- The Bible promises that it is possible to have a worry free life if we would just be obedient to His Word.

- The Apostle Paul and Silas could be happy in a very difficult situation.

- They were thrown into jail for freeing a young woman of an evil spirit.

- Notice their attitude because they had knowledge of God's Word and were obedient to it.

- Read Acts 16:25

- They believed Romans 8:28

- They believed Gen. 50:20 - As a result many were saved as a result of them being in jail.

- Despite all the trials and tribulations that Paul had been through at the end of his life and he was a happy Christian and could say - See 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

- Why? - Because he had knowledge and was obedient to that knowledge.

- Therefore, he was a happy Christian no matter what his circumstances were.

- Elijah is a good example of what happens when you have knowledge and are obedient to it and likewise when you have knowledge and are not obedient to it.

A. 1 Kings 18 - Great victory / happiness because Elijah was obedient to the Word of God (knowledge).

- See 1 Kings 18:1-2 - Elijah listens to the Lord and is obedient to the Lord.

- Result great victory over the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel.

B. 1 Kings 19 - God did not instruct Elijah to run for his life because of Jezebel's threats.

- But he did and got so depressed that he wanted to die.

- You see he had knowledge but was not obedient to it.

- He knew that God would protect him, but he had a lapse of faith.
- He did not trust the Lord like he should have and became full of fear and ran for his life.
- The Bible says, "The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." Proverbs 29:25.

-So, as a Christian you can find true happiness if you remember according to John 13:17, "If know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."