

"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 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."