

Philippians # 31

“Rejoice and be glad”

Philippians 2:17-18

Matthew 5:1-12

2nd Corinthians 11:23-29

“There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy.”

Robert Louis Stevenson

Biblical running is the believer’s advance to spiritual maturity.

Neglecting Bible teaching results in loss of rewards.

God wants us to live our lives by running with perseverance.

But when Jesus spoke about sin and judgment, He also spoke of grace and sins forgiven and assurance of

eternal life; the Lord Jesus Christ gave sinners hope.

We won’t find peace in substances, sex or money; we will only find it through God’s Word in the person of Jesus Christ.

The course is simple; follow Jesus because He alone is the way, the truth and the life.

Far too many believers see their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as an “I will” contract rather than it being “I do.”

Of course, there are responsibilities for the committed disciple of Christ just like in marriage but when properly understood and practiced, even the obligations are a source of happiness!

The Christian life is not meant to be drudgery but a joyous living relationship with the Living God through His Son.

There is pain and there is denial in following Jesus but without them, we would not know pleasure and delight, nearly as well.

People should follow Jesus for the pure joy and happiness of finding pleasure, delight and satisfaction in God.

Jesus Christ, Creator of the universe was extremely happy with His creation.

God is eternally happy and He wants to share His happiness with you!

They who trust in God find great joy in Him.

Those who choose to truly follow Jesus do so for pure joy.

Just as Eve partook of the fruit, followed by Adam, many people choose the cheap thrills of Satan opposed to the lasting pleasures offered by God.

The mind of Christ is not presented as an unattainable ideal but something available to all His committed disciples who are dedicated to His will and service.

All that Saul considered gain with his amazing credentials, Paul now counted as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ.

Whether it be a one-time sacrifice or a life-long priestly pastoral service, Paul rejoices in God and encourages the Philippian church to join him.

Paul says: I love God’s people and I’m here to serve and sacrifice for them so, I’m

willing for my life to be vaporized in the Lord that I may be a blessing to His people.

The pastor must pour his life out on the altar of sacrifice.

Everything else in the life of the pastor-teacher is secondary to his studying and teaching.

Every pastor who cracks the maturity barrier has continued happiness.

The Philippian believers who are now sharing the happiness of God in greater-grace are congratulating Paul and Paul who led them there, whom they have followed so faithfully is congratulating them and being congratulated by them.