

HOW CAN I BE HAPPY?

Answering life's Toughest Questions

Part 2

"Though a man lives a thousand years twice over, but doesn't find contentment -- what's the use?" Ecclesiastes 6:6

I. SOLOMON'S SEARCH FOR SATISFACTION

"I decided to enjoy myself and find out what happiness is." 2:1

1. _____

"... I am better educated than any of the kings before me... (but) the more my wisdom, the more my grief..." 1:16-18

2. _____

"I tested pleasure ... and laughter ... I tried cheering myself with wine, and having a good time ... I acquired a harem... I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure... But it proved to be meaningless ..." 2: 1-3, 10

3. _____

"Then I tried to find fulfillment by inaugurating a great public works program; homes, gardens, parks ... reservoirs ... But I turned in despair from hard work as the answer to my search for satisfaction." v. 4-5,20

4. _____

"I owned more livestock than anyone else... I piled up silver and gold. In the cultural arts, I organized men's and women's choirs and orchestras." v. 7-8

5. _____

"I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me... Yet when I surveyed all I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless ... under the sun." v. 9, 11

"So I hated life." 2:17

II. JESUS' KEYS TO HAPPINESS (Matthew 5:3-10)

1. _____ God!

"How happy are those who know their need is for God" v. 3

2. _____ God when life is disappointing.

"Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!" v. 4

3. _____ God to meet my needs.

"Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth belongs to them." v. 5

4. _____ God's instructions.

"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully." v. 6

5. Cultivate a _____ heart.

"Happy are the kind and merciful, for they will be shown mercy." v. 7

6. Maintain a _____ conscience.

"Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God." v. 8

7. Build _____ relationships.

"Happy are the peacemakers." v. 9

8. Live with an _____ perspective.

"Happy are those who are persecuted because they are good... a tremendous reward awaits you in heaven." v.10

"Seek your happiness in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desire." Psalm 37:4

Next Sunday By:

HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF MY TIME?

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