

Hello again everyone. Hope you are having a good week. We had a good service Sunday and then we had a community Thanksgiving dinner. we had a good turnout and good fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Please pray for Dan Miller, our web-master and general all around "fix-it" man. He had a stroke Sat. night and is in Miami Valley Hospital, soon to go to a rehab facility. There might not be any new stuff on our web page until he gets better. He needs our prayers.

Next week is Thanksgiving, so let's make sure we count all our blessings and say our thanks this week.

God bless you!

Pastor Don

“Happy are those whose help is the Lord” Psalm 146 Nov. 11, 2012

As 5 year old little Sally watched her mom do dishes, she noticed a few white hairs in her otherwise black hair. She asked “Mommy, why are some of your hairs white?” Her mother replied, “Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.” The little girl thought about this revelation for a while, and then said, “So, Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?”

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

We all bring happiness to a room; some by entering it others by leaving it.

Christian contemporary music artist Dallas Holm tells “Contemporary Christian Magazine” that young artists come up to him all the time and say if I don't get to do what you are doing I will never be happy. Then he tells them that they will never be happy because happiness is not based on what you do for Him, but it is based on who you are in Him. Happiness is being a true child of God. Are we happy?

4 year old little Johnny was memorizing John 3:16. He got most of it but he got confused on the ending. He said whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall live happily ever after. Isn't that a good paraphrase? Happy are those whose help is the Lord. They shall truly live happily ever after in Heaven with Jesus. Until then, we can live happily here with Jesus in our hearts. Hugh Downs said “A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.”

Do we have a Godly attitude this morning? Are we thankful, loving, happy, friendly, gracious and caring? God loves us and wants what is best for us. He has promised to meet all our needs if we will give Him our heart and love Him in return.

If we love Him, we will praise Him, serve Him, obey Him and trust Him. Do we love, Him, praise Him, serve Him, obey Him and trust Him?

Are we happy in Jesus? Is He our help? As we contemplate these questions, let us look to our Lord in prayer. Would you pray with me as we begin this morning's message? (Pray)

Praise the Lord! This phrase begins and ends each of the last 5 Psalms, 146-150. These last 5 Psalms are an orchestrated response to all of God's gracious works to those who love Him. Do we love Him? Do we praise Him? Do we trust Him? Is He our help?

The 1st two verses remind us we need to live a life of praise. It says praise the lord oh my soul. Soul means our whole being. Do we praise God with every ounce of our existence?

"While I will live, I will praise the Lord." We are to praise God at all times, all day long through out our entire life; not just when we feel like it or things are super. Do we praise God in good times? Do we praise Him in bad times?

Praising God is an attitude. It is a sense that we trust Him; that we know He is in charge and eventually everything will work out all right. Do we have the correct attitude?

The Psalmist warns us not to put our trust in people. There is no long lasting help in them. When a person dies he says, their plans die with them; their dreams perish and so does any help for us. Are we trusting in God or people?

The Psalmist says happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help. Happy means a deep abiding pleasure, a manifest joy. Are we happy? Do we trust the God of Jacob? Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We trust the same God they did and look what marvelous things He did for them. Then he lists some of the great things God has done: He made the heavens and the earth, as well as the sea, and all that is in them. Our God is the God of creation. He made everything perfect. He made a perfect place to live for His crowning achievement; the creation of man. Man was happy in the Garden of Eden. God made Adam, then gave him a wife; they had plenty to eat and drink; they had daily fellowship with God. They were happy. Their life was simple; they only had 1 rule. Gen 2:16-17 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Don't you think life would be simple if we only had one rule? Do you think we could keep just one rule? Probably not. What is the one thing we most want to do? The one thing we are not supposed to do. In chapter 3 of Genesis, Satan comes and tempts Adam and Eve, they give into temptation. They sin and their sin gets them kicked out of the Garden of Eden and their fellowship with God is broken. But God keeps truth forever. That truth is that He loves us. He loves us so much; He made a way for us to have fellowship with him again. He loves us so much that he sent his only begotten son Jesus to come and die for our sins. The blood of Christ washes away all our sin. With our sins forgiven we can once again find true happiness by having fellowship with God. R we in fellowship with God? God executes justice for the oppressed. What does that mean? It means He is on our side. He takes care of us. If God is for us who can be against us? Jesus came to rescue us from the hands of Satan, the great oppressor. Happy are they whose help is the Lord!

God feeds the hungry; sometimes in supernatural ways. He sent ravens to Elijah; twice He feed multitudes with a few individual's lunches. He meets all our needs. Do we trust Him to meet our needs? God gives freedom to the prisoners. All sinners are imprisoned by their sins. Forgiveness sets us free from that prison. God opens the eyes of the blind; not just physically, but spiritually as well.

God allows us to see ourselves through His eyes, and when we do, we realize we are sinners. When we come to this realization, we humble ourselves. When we humble ourselves, God picks us up. God raises up those who are bowed down. Have we humbled ourselves before God?

God has constant kindness and love for those who love Him. The LORD loves the righteous, yet Romans 3:10 says **"There is none righteous, no, not one"**. But when we put on Jesus Christ we get His righteousness.

The Lord watches over the strangers. Strangers are exposed, and are commonly destitute of friends, but the Lord preserves them, so that they won't be not run down and ruined. The Lord is our friend no matter where we go; He watches over us and keeps us safe.

He relieves the fatherless and widows. Widows and orphans are very vulnerable because they have lost the head of the family, the one who took care of them and the affairs of their day to day needs. They often fell into the hands of those that prey on them. They won't not do them justice, but take advantage of them. The Lord relieves them, that is He raises up friends and help for them.

God does all these things for us because He loves us and wants us to be happy. Do we want to be happy? Abraham Lincoln once said "A man is about as happy as he makes his mind up to be." How happy have we made our minds up to be?

The last half of verse 9 tells us that while God wants us to be happy, but He is still a just God. He turns the way of the wicked upside down. God will punish willful rebellion. Psalm 145:20 **"The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy"**

Sin likes to disguise itself as fun. It likes to trick us into thinking that this fun makes us happy, but it doesn't. There might be momentary happiness, but it is fleeting. Hebrews 11:25 tells us that Moses, when he came of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."** The pleasure of sin, the happiness we think we get from it, doesn't last very long. It is fleeting. All it does it separate us from God. That is what all sin does, separates us from God. Have we come back to God through the blood of Christ?

Jesus came into the world to help the helpless, the stranger, the fatherless, the widow, and the afflicted get into His kingdom. All those that oppose his kingdom and oppress the faithful subjects of it, He will destroy. Jesus turned society's values upside down when He said things like **"he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"** and **"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."** The way of the wicked He truly

does turn upside down, so we need not fear any oppressor. Let us hope in him and not be afraid. The glory of God will defeat all attacks against his faithful followers. Therefore since He is for us, we need not fear anything that can be done against us. His kingdom shall continue through all time. The Lord shall reign for ever and ever! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Do we praise the Lord continually? Do we praise Him to the next generation? Do we praise Him in hard times as well as good?

Do we really believe that he will reign forever and ever?

Then we should be happy, for our help is in the Lord. There are 5 reasons we need to praise God continually. 1st, praising him gets our minds off our problems and focuses on the answer, Jesus Christ. He is the answer no matter what's the problem. Is He our focus?

2ndly, Praise leads us from individual worship into corporate worship. 3rdly, praise causes us to appreciate God's character. 4thly, praise lifts our spirits and our thoughts from worldly things to heavenly things. And lastly, praise prepares us to receive God's love, power and blessings. Happy are those whose help is the Lord. Are we happy?

Horatio Spafford was a lawyer in Chicago. He knew that true happiness only comes from the Lord. Things and circumstances cannot make us happy, only Jesus can do that; so he stayed close to God. He lived in Chicago and was a supporter and close friend of Dwight L. Moody. Horatio Spafford had what some would call quite a string of bad luck. In 1870 his only son died at the age of 4 from scarlet fever. In the spring of 1871, he heavily invested in some real estate at the north end of Chicago. In the fall of 1871 the great Chicago fire whipped out the city and Mr. Spafford's investment. So in 1873 Spafford thought it best if the family took a vacation. So they booked passage to England as they knew D.L. Moody was going to be speaking there. But Horatio wasn't able to leave with the family; he stayed behind to finish up some work. On Nov. 22, 1873 there was a wreck at sea. Spafford's 4 daughters, ages 11, 9, 5, and 2 perished along with 222 other people. Horatio received a telegram from his wife, "saved alone". Soon his business was finished and Horatio himself set sail for England. One night he was unable to sleep. As he paced back and forth on the deck a sailor recognized him began speaking with him. He told him he was sorry for his loss and he didn't know if it would help, but they were right now in the spot where that terrible accident happened. After the sailor moved on, Horatio took a pencil and a note pad from his pocket and wrote these words, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul."

Horatio arrived safely and was reunited with his wife. God is good, all the time, all the time God is good. From 1878 to 1881, God blessed the Spafford's with 3 more children, two girls & 1 son, but unfortunately, this son also died at age 4, this time from pneumonia. In 1881, the 5 Spafford's and 11 other adults moved to Jerusalem & started the American Colony, engaged in philanthropic work amongst the people of Jerusalem regardless of their religious affiliation. Horatio worked at this until he died of malaria in 1888.

Happy are those whose help is the Lord. Is our help the Lord? He was Horatio Spafford's. Are we happy? Do we trust in the Lord? Do we believe Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things

work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” What is God’s purpose for us? To be happy in our service for Him. Like Paul, have we learned to be content, no matter what state we are in? Do we begin and end our day with praise to the Lord? Do we tell others what He has done for us? True praise includes sharing our Jesus. True praise is more than just singing praise, it is living it. Do our lives praise God? Do we praise Him in word and deed? Could we write a song praising God after tragedy strikes? Is it well with our souls?

Happy are those whose help is the Lord! Amen! Let us pray. (Pray)