

## Where Is Happiness?

Not in unbelief – Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote, “I wish I had never been born.”

Not in pleasure – Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure, if anyone did. He wrote, “The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone.”

Not in money – Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying he said, “I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth.”

Not in position and fame – Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote, “Youth is a mistake; manhood, a struggle; old age, a regret.”

Not in military glory – Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept, because, he said, “There are no more worlds to conquer.”

Not in self-pity -- Stephen Fry wrote: “Self-pity may be the worst possible emotion anyone can have, as well as the most self destructive; it destroys everything around it, except itself. Stop feeling sorry for yourself long enough to experience happiness.”

Where then is happiness found? The answer is simple – in Christ alone. He said, “I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you” (John 16:22).

### This Book

THIS BOOK contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

READ IT TO BE WISE, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

CHRIST IS ITS GRAND SUBJECT, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

READ IT SLOWLY, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered for ever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its sacred contents. (P. Howe)

### Forgive and Forever Forget

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD” (Lev. 19:18).

A preacher once rebuked a Christian lady who had an unforgiving spirit toward someone who had offended her. After a moment’s thought she replied, “Well, I guess I’ll pardon her as you suggest, but I don’t want anything more to do with her!” The preacher replied: “Is that how you want God to treat you? Do you wish His forgiveness and then have Him withdraw His love and fellowship?” Recognizing her wrong attitude, she repented and forgave the woman.

When God forgives our sins, He forever forgets them and holds them against us no more. “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” (Heb. 8:12) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) Let us be forgiving even as God is forgiving.

### So Few Listen

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?” (Heb. 2:1-3).

During the night of July 31, 1976, a 19-foot wall of water roared through the mountain-rimmed canyon linking Estes Park and Loveland, Colorado. Earlier in the day, campers had walked along the babbling brook which flowed through the canyon. But mountain thunderstorms turned it into a raging killer which took 129 lives. One couple survived because the husband saw the danger of the rapidly rising waters in the narrow canyon. Before scaling the canyon walls to safety, the man tried to warn others. However, very few people listened to his warning. How about you? Are you heeding God's warnings? Let us give diligent heed to the things which we have heard lest we drift away.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- The real measure of a man's wealth is what he has invested in eternity.
- Thank God for what you have; trust God for what you need.
- If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday and the worries of tomorrow, you will have no today to be thankful for.
- Patience is the ability to idle your motor when you feel like stripping your gears.
- Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.
- To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it.
- We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for.
- Love is the only thing that can be divided without being diminished.
- Happiness is enhanced by others but does not depend upon others.
- What is intended as a little white lie often ends up as a double feature in Technicolor.
- Going to church regularly is like making a path in the forest -- the more often you use it, the less obstructions you'll find in the way.
- The greatest fault is to be conscious of none but other people's.
- It's not the greatness of our trouble, but the littleness of our faith that makes us complain.
- Life's heaviest burden is to have nothing to carry.
- Death is not a period, but a comma in the story of life.
- Nothing is easy to the unwilling.
- The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.
- Before you give anyone a piece of your mind, you ought to be sure that you can get by with what you have left.
- The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.
- Many people have a good aim in life, but most of them don't know when to pull the trigger.
- People do ODD things to get EVEN.
- A lot of trouble in this world is caused by combining a NARROW mind with a WIDE mouth.
- The teeth may be FALSE, but let the tongue be TRUE.
- If you are unkind, you're the wrong kind.
- You can't build a church with stumbling blocks.
- If you don't live it, you don't believe it.
- People who look down on their neighbors are usually living upon a bluff.
- Some people grin and bear it. Others smile and change it.

