

Family Focus

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

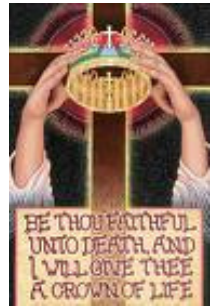
HAPPINESS = A CROWN OF LIFE!

In Romans 14:22, Paul said, "Do you have faith? Have it yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves." The thought is that if you know some principles of doing what is right, you are expected to do them. James 4:17 says, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." These principles are based on knowing and following God's complete will for us.

We cannot be happy if we live contrary to these Biblical principles. A good example of happiness is found in Acts 4:41 as Peter and other apostles were on trial for teaching the truth: "So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for His name." They rejoiced. They were glad and happy because they knew what they were doing was God's will.

We are taught many ways to be happy in God's word, but our serving in His kingdom is summed up in the final achievement of receiving a crown. That is what our struggles are all about - we want to go to heaven. Our happiness will then be complete.

Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day and not to me only, but also to all who have loved his appearing." Paul's final happiness is found in this prize, a crown of life. He is looking forward to when the Lord says: "Well done, good and faithful servant." All the sacrifices he made in his life will be well worth the crown waiting for him.



Our life here can be beautiful. We can be happy. The promises made by Jesus should be a great comfort for us. But this life's happiness cannot be compared to that final happiness found in the crown of life we will receive in heaven. It is a goal worth striving for.



Apologies to Glenda Kinney, who placed membership with us last week. She was incorrectly identified in the Family Focus as Glenda "McKinney".

Our Shepherds

Glen Godsey, Charles Martin, Britt Newby, Don Osburn,
Jerry Templer, James Treece, Dee Vanderburg



HE IS RISEN!