



Finding Happiness

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 4:16

Series: *Escaping Futility, Enjoying Fulfillment,*
the Book of Ecclesiastes, #3

Pastor Lyle L. Wahl

September 8, 2004

Theme: **Happiness is a gift from our sovereign God.**

Step one: recognize your need of sovereign God.

1. In light of the great equalizer — death. (3:18-21)
2. In light of the many inequalities of life. (4:1-16)

Step two: recognize your sovereign God gives order.

1. God orders all things. (3:1-11, 14-15)
2. God judges all things. (3:16-17)

Step three: receive your sovereign God's gifts.

1. Receive His gift enabling happiness. (3:12, 14, 22)
2. Receive the good things God gives. (3:13)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. One of the recurring truths that troubled King Solomon, and drove Him ultimately to a solid trust in sovereign God, is that death is the great equalizer. Check out his observations: 2:-15-16, 3:19 and following; 5:15-16, 6:6, 7:1-2, 8:8, 9:3,10,12, 12:7. After it is all said and done, we all face death. If *this life* is all there is, all of our dreams and efforts are empty, futile. Take a close look at your perspective.

Tuesday. The inequalities of life also troubled Solomon — read 4:1-16. God calls us to care and act to pursue what is just. Our focus is also to go beyond the inequalities to see God in His sovereignty over all that is unfair and cruel. You cannot be truly, deeply, consistently happy without this focus. It can be difficult to maintain the proper balance. How are you doing?

Wednesday. It is God who gives order and who judges all things — in His perfect time and way. Review 3:1-17 with this in mind. Write out a brief description of how knowing this relates to happiness. Make sure to include what this means for you personally.

Thursday. Happiness may be pursued, but ultimately true happiness is a gracious gift received from God. How are you doing with respect to viewing and receiving every good thing as coming from “the hand of God” (2:24), or coming down from “the Father of lights” (James 1:7)?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to consider 5:1-20. Read and think through these verses in preparation for our time together.