

## TODAY'S MESSAGE:

### THE BETTER LIFE: **Pleasure Does Not Equal Happiness**

John 14:19

April 19, 2009



*I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good."* (Ecclesiastes 2:1)

#### 1. BREAK THE CONNECTION BETWEEN P\_\_\_\_\_ AND LASTING H\_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 11:24, 25 *"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin..."* NAS

1 Timothy 5:6 *"[The one] who lives for pleasure is dead even while [he] lives."*

#### 2. BREAK THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WHAT YOU D\_\_\_\_\_ AND WHO YOU A\_\_\_\_\_.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 *"Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun."*

#### 3. BREAK THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR C\_\_\_\_\_ AND YOUR CHARACTER.

*"Happy are you when men hate you and when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man..."*  
Luke 6:22

*"Even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed."* 1 Peter 3:14

*"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."*  
Habakkuk 3:17, 18

### HOW DO YOU FIND HAPPINESS?

#### 1. RECEIVE GOD'S F\_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"— and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Psalm 32*

#### 2. SUBMIT TO GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_, HIS WAY OF LIFE.

*"Happy is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty."*

Job 5:17

*"Happy are those who hear the word of God and obey it."* Luke 11:28 (MSG)

*"Happy is the person who listens to God."* Proverbs 8:34 (NLT)

*"Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found."* Psalm 119:35 (NLT)

#### **"I don't condemn you... go and sin no more." - Jesus**

**For Reflection / Action:** Have you mistaken pleasure for happiness? What are some pleasures that you find that you continually seek thinking that they'll bring happiness? Do you think your happiness lies in your circumstances? Have you, like the prodigal son, let your pursuit of happiness draw you away from your Father? Have you asked His forgiveness? (He is happy to grant it, you know!) How will you change your behavior such that you are seeking your happiness in the Lord?

Message based on sermon by Rev. Brad Johnson, (Saddleback Church, 2002)  
All Scripture, unless otherwise noted, is taken from the "New International Version" (NIV).

**Happiness Is An Inside Job!**