

Newsletter January 2023

“Happy New Year” It can be yours...if...you find yourself close enough

Happy! I looked the word up. Feeling or showing pleasure or contentment. “Andrea came in looking happy and excited” maybe I should add...looking younger than ever!

This is what the bible tells us. “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. The Good News (God’s word): Joy and happiness have the power to heal, while the opposite can cause great pain. “Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief.”

Depending on how we define the word happy, I can’t find scripture where we are promised happiness...not by Google’s definition...It all depends on how we define happy.

If we need everything to go our way to be happy, if we need everything we asked Santa for this Christmas, then we can bet the house on spending much of this year and life unhappy. We all know that things often don't go the way we want things to go. But God promises us something far better than happiness.

He promises us a Happy New Year...Happy because God has a better substitute. He said, “I’ll give you joy and peace and life that is completely satisfying. And this should make us happy. This is a wonderful substitute for disappointment.

I’m not happy when a good friend dies. It’s a real loss to me as it is to you. As I was delivering the message December 1st for our friend Darrell Swing, and looked down at his brother Eddie and Jerrie, Misty, Megan and Morgan, saw their heads down and tears flowing. Their emotions expressed their love, and their loss. But just like Eddie and the family, I have great joy, peace and am completely satisfied when I know my friend is a Christian, has been forgiven, knows His Lord personally and has arrived in his heavenly home. Heaven gives me joy and peace. I am so happy for my friend who is now in Heaven. Yes I’ll miss him but all the unpleasantness of this world, he no longer has to be concerned with. He is happy.

The fact is...knowing this life is so short should not worry us, concern us, depress us. As believers, knowing this life is short should give us great joy and peace...make us happy because even though we don't want to leave our loved ones, leaving them behind will pass quickly and if they too know their Savior Jesus, we will be together very soon and this gathering will last forever. It will be like going to your favorite family reunion that you don't want to end, you don't want to get filled up on your favorite dish or desert or conversations. Heaven means, this happiness will be endless. Being with your Heavenly Father forever, knowing the depth of His love for you like you've never known it before will be indescribable. The word happy will not describe the joy you and I will experience in Heaven...and never having to leave...never having to deal with illness or disappointment. Just perfection.

If you belong to Christ. If you've asked Him to forgive you for your sins. If you are doing your best at obeying God. You have been forgiven and given your ticket to Heaven. No one and nothing can take your place in Heaven. God's forgiveness is permanent, covers every thought, word and bad deed. Happy New Year. This year can be the best year of your life if your life belongs to Him.

He loves you. You are His child, His creation. He has a wonderful plan and purpose for your New Year. Simply draw close to Him. Close enough to hear Him speak to you. Close enough to experience God Himself. Close enough to see Him at work all around you. Close enough to join Him in His work. This, my sisters and brothers in Christ. This is Happy.

With the deepest love and the boldest prayers for you and your new year,

Pastor Steve

P.S. Happy New Year...It can be yours...if...if you find yourself close enough to Him?