



LIFELINE

Why Your Happiness Is So Important to God

No one puts it as bluntly as Blaise Pascal in his *Pensées*:

All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.

There you are. Warrior, pacifist, suicide, sluggard, workaholic; if you're a human, you're a hedonist. You can try to deny it, but you can't change it.

If you want to try your hand at stoicism, forget the Bible. It has little for you. Scripture does not support the idea that our motives are more pure the less we are pursuing our own interested happiness. Nope. In fact, according to the Bible, unless we are pursuing our happiness we cannot even come to God: "for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

What Pleasure Measures

God blatantly entices us to seek happiness, joy, pleasure — whatever you want to call it — in him with verses like this: "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4), and "in your presence is fullness of joy, and at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11). We're supposed to want pleasure. Why does God want us to want pleasure? Because

it is a crucial indicator. Pleasure is the meter in your heart that measures how valuable, how precious someone or something is to you. Pleasure is the measure of your treasure.

Your treasure is what you love. Your greatest treasure is what you love the most. "For where your treasure is, there your heart [your love] will be also" (Matthew 6:21). You glorify your treasure by the fact that it's the object of your pleasure.

"Your treasure is what you love."

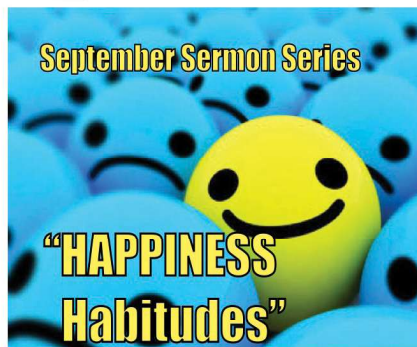
And that's why God is not indifferent about your joy. It's a big deal to him. Your pleasure in God is the measure of how much of a treasure he is to you.

The Whistle-Blower of Your Heart

This also makes pleasure the whistle-blower of your heart. If something sinful gives you pleasure, it's not a pleasure problem. It's a treasure problem. Your pleasure mechanism is likely functioning just fine. It's what you love that's out of whack. And pleasure is outing you. It's revealing that, despite what your mouth says and the image you try to project to others, something evil is precious to you.

That's what sin is at the root: treasuring evil. Which makes the fight of faith in the Christian life a fight for delight. It's a fight to believe God's promises of happiness over the false promises of happiness we hear from the world, our fallen flesh, and the devil. And yes, it often involves denying ourselves pleasure, but only denying ourselves a lesser, viler pleasure in order to have a much higher

continues on page 3





Finding Happiness in Tibet

A bright young pre-med student from Harvard University

journeyed to the mountains of Tibet during the summer following his sophomore year. There he met a monk who said to him, "Don't you see how you are poisoning your soul with your success-oriented way of life? Your idea of happiness is to stay up all night studying for an exam so you can get a better grade than your friend. Your idea of a happy marriage is not finding a woman who will make you whole, but winning the girl that everyone else wants. That's not how people are supposed to live. Life is not a competition. Give it up. Come join us in an atmosphere where we share, live in harmony, and love one another. Here you can find true happiness."

The young man had completed four years at a competitive high school to get into Harvard and had worked hard to become one of the top pre-med students in his class at the university. He was ripe for the appeal of the Tibetan monk. He called his parents and told them that he would not be coming home. He was dropping out of school to live in a Buddhist monastery.

Six months later, he wrote his parents: "Dear Mom and Dad, I know you weren't happy with

the decision I made last summer, but I want to tell you that I am doing great. For the first time in my life, I am at peace. Here there is no competing, no hustling, no trying to get ahead of anyone else. Here we are all equal, and we all share. This way of life is so much in harmony with the inner essence of my soul that in only six months I've become the number two disciple in the entire monastery, and I think I can become number one by June!"

Obviously, nothing changed for this young man except his environment. On the inside, he remained the same person and will probably be as discontent as he was before when the novelty of living in a new place wears off.

You can't find happiness or peace simply by changing your external surroundings. What you need is a change on the inside, and that can only happen by giving your life to Jesus Christ. Scripture teaches us that when you become a Christian, "the old is gone and the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The transformation is complete, from the inside out.

Join us for the September Sermon Series: Happiness Habitudes

Pastor Greg

4

Ways to Give


in person


by mail
1138 S. Yale Ave
Tulsa, Ok 74112


online
willrogersumc.org


by text
844-277-6101

ONLINE

GIVING

Scan to give!



Wonderful and Devastating

This biblical truth that we call Christian Hedonism is both wonderful and devastating. It is wonderful to realize that God's pursuit of glory and our pursuit of joy is not supposed to be different pursuits, but the same! Because, as John Piper says, "God is most glorified in you, when you are most satisfied in him." That means that God's glory in us depends on our being as happy as we possibly can be for all of eternity! If you've never read the book, *Desiring God*, dive into it this Fall and revel in what makes the Gospel so good (take advantage of our free PDF version to read or browse).

"There is greater joy in God than you've yet known."
But the devastating thing is that as soon as we realize that God receives the most glory from our satisfaction

in him, we also realize how far short we fall in so many areas of finding our satisfaction in him. And if you're in a slough of discouragement over this, then put *When I Don't Desire God* on your Fall's must-reads list (we have a free PDF for this one too!). It will encourage your heart and equip you with weapons in the fight for the right joy.

Pursue Your Highest Pleasure!

Fight for the right joy! There is greater joy in God than you've yet known. Don't give up. Don't settle for the lesser joys. Make it your aim to be a full, unashamed, bold Christian Hedonist! Pursue your pleasure in God, the greatest Treasure that exists, with all your heart (Matthew 22:37). "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Jon Bloom (@Bloom_Jon) is a cofounder of *Desiring God*, wrote more than 750 articles, and continues to serve as a board member.



2026-2027

Begins Tuesday, September 8, 2026

for enrollment and additional information
please contact our preschool director,
Felecial Atkins at 918-584-8661
Email: wrcpreschool2@gmail.com





Everybody's Welcome Nobody's Perfect Anything's Possible

September Sermon Series

**"HAPPINESS
Habitudes"**

The
CHOSEN

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT**

**BIBLE
STUDY**

6:30pm in the
Food Court



Ladies'

BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 12:30p-2:30p in the Food Court





Will Rogers Church

LIFELINE

1138 South Yale Tulsa, OK 74112-5395 (918) 834-0891

Return Service Requested

September 2026

WILL ROGERS CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY @ 10:15AM

Everyone's Welcome Nobody's Perfect Anything's Possible

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:00AM

Church website: <http://www.wrctulsa.org>

[facebook.com/Will Rogers Church Tulsa OK](https://www.facebook.com/WillRogersChurchTulsaOK)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Service times:

10:15am - Blended Worship

Livestreaming

Find link on Facebook or www.wrctulsa.org

9:00am - Sunday School