

The Secret Of Happiness

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:17

We have just passed the festival of Christmas with all of its feasting, presents, and making merry. We have sung the great carols of the season such as, Joy to the world and Silent Night.

What a delightful time of year it is. I believe the Lord is pleased with how we seek to celebrate Advent.

Children love the season because it is a time for receiving gifts. Adults find their pleasure in the act of giving. In giving we are imitating our Father in heaven who loved us and gave His only begotten Son for us.

I wish you to consider how mature you are in the Christian faith by thinking about this distinction between children and adults. Are you more interested in receiving from the Lord or in giving to the Lord?

Children think it is more blessed to get than to

give. Adults find it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Real joy for mature believers is found in the act of doing what pleases the Lord.

As the day ends there is satisfaction in our prayer time when we lift up our work for the day and give it to the Lord. Are you in the habit of offering the day's activities as a love offering to your Redeemer?

In our verse today Jesus makes it clear that by following His directions during the day we will be "blessed" or happy. Have you thought of this way to be happy? Do you take encouragement in obedience as the way to joy in the Lord?

Are you aware of something—or some things—you need to do that the Bible has brought to your attention? Perhaps you need to be baptized. Why are you putting off what the Lord has commanded

(Matthew 28:19)?

Are you only giving a portion of what you know you should to the support of the ministry of your local church? God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), "...give generously..." (Romans 12:8).

Search your heart today and ask the Lord to make His will clear. Then obey with enthusiasm and your heart will be joyful.

Obedience to the Lord is the way to be happy in the Lord. Your Saviour is waiting for you to present yourself to Him for service. Come to Him and come now.

Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.

John Sammis

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