

Misquoted: God Wants You to be Happy

June 26, 2016 / Dan Solofra

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the **pursuit of Happiness.**"* Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

Secular Theology: I can do what I want to make myself happy as long as I don't break the _____ or violate another's _____.

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" . . .

²¹ **Jesus looked at him and loved him.** "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² At this the man's face fell. **He went away sad, because he had great wealth.** Mark 10:17, 21-22, NIV

Happiness: feeling pleasure because of _____ in my life.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ **The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.** 1 John 2:15-17, NIV

¹² There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12, NIV

The problem with earthly happiness is that it doesn't _____. In the end it leads to _____.

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were **pleasing to the eye and good for food.** In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:8-9, NIV

God created us with _____. We are to fear, love and trust in him above all things.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4, NIV

³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Matthew 6:32-33, NIV

Joy: settled assurance that _____ is in _____ of my life no matter what situations I face.

God gives joy in his _____ with me.

¹¹ "**Blessed** are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² **Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.** Matthew 5:11-12, NIV

Even in the most unpleasant circumstances we are _____. Our future with God is _____. Our joy is _____.

MEMORY VERSE

⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4, NIV

Bottom line: The greatest gift God gives me is himself. I will have moments of happiness, but constant joy through his presence and promises in my life.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.