

# Seeking Out

# The Old Paths

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Volume 11 Issue 8

August 2005

## THE QUEST FOR HAPPINESS

The world's greatest quest is happiness. Happiness is the thing that everyone is in pursuit of, but most people are going to the wrong source to find it. Some have tried to find it in social distinctions and political prominence. Others have tried to find it in wealth. But those who have tried to find it in the accumulation of money all tell the same story. They will tell you they spent the first half of their lives trying to get it from the other fellow, and that they spent the last half of their lives trying to keep the other fellow from taking it away from them, and that they found peace in neither half.

Where is happiness? It is not in fame. Lord Clive had plenty of that. When he came back from India he found the English people in transports of joy over his success. The houses of Parliament and places of business closed their doors while multitudes of people from all walks of life lined the streets to do him honor. But with the plaudits of the people ringing in his ears he climbed into the attic and sent a

bullet whizzing through his brain.

In speaking of fame, Horace Greeley said, "Fame is a vapor, popularity is an accident; riches take wings and fly away, and those who bless you today may curse you tomorrow." There is only one thing that endures, namely, character, for character is based upon conscience, and conscience is based upon Christianity.

Where is happiness? It is not in unbelief. Voltaire, the noted French infidel had plenty of that, and he said, "I wish I had never been born."

Where is happiness? It is not in pleasure. Lord Byron had lots of that, and yet he said, "The worm, canker, and grief are mine?"

Where is happiness? It is not in military glory. Alexander conquered worlds and wept because there were no more to conquer.

Happiness is not found in things outside yourself. The prodigal son thought that in order to be happy he would have to go a long way off, so he went into a "far country," not realizing that the

fountain of sweetest joy springs up within us and not without us. When I see a person seeking happiness at the dance, at the movie, at the saloon, at the gambling den, I know he has never found happiness. The prodigal did not find happiness in the husks.

Where is happiness? It is not in possessions. If there had been lasting joy in possessions, surely Solomon would have found it. If there had been lasting joy in the art world, Solomon surely would have had it. If there had been lasting joy in the financial world, Solomon would have had it. He was not only a millionaire; he was a billionaire. He inherited a legacy of more than \$800,000,000. He was so well fixed he could have bought out the Standard Oil or the United States Steel. If there had been any real, abiding joy in the social world, he surely would have had it, for he had many more wives than did Brigham Young.

But listen to Solomon after he has indulged himself to the full

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**"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good." Numbers 10:29**

Dryden Road  
Pentecostal Church  
3201 Dryden Road  
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298-6555

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School - 10 A.M.

Morning Worship - 11 A.M.

Evangelistic Service - 6 P.M.

### TUESDAY

Youth Service - 7:30 P.M.

### WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service - 10 A.M.

### THURSDAY

Family Service - 7:30 P.M.

“Where A Warm  
Welcome Awaits You...  
In This Church We  
Teach Holiness Too...”

Pastor  
Bennie D. Sutherland  
Editor  
Frank Lindsey

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# Around Home

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## Prayer List

Please remember the following people in our church who need a touch from the Lord.

Patsy Roberts, Verna Williams, Edna Pelfrey, Demia Abner, Ruby Carpenter, Marty Hatcher, Bessie Richmond, Jean Sheldon, Evelyn Houston, Brenda Houston, Donna Maggard, Willidean Curtis, Opal Houston, Odie Boggs, Rachel Thompson, Flodie Baldwin, Kenny Edwards, Steve Phillips, Carl Henson, and Ray Driscoll.

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Congratulations to Nathan & Jamie Webb on the arrival of their new son. Thomas Layton Webb was born July 20th, and weighed 7 lbs. 13 1/2 oz. Brother Bob & Sister Tish Rice are the proud grandparents.

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Nobody wants constructive criticism. It's all we can do to put up with constructive praise.

## Indoor Fellowship Meeting

The Indoor Fellowship Meeting will be held August 23rd through the 26th. The first service will be Tuesday night (23rd) at 7 PM. Wednesday through Friday, breakfast 8 AM to 9 AM, morning service at 10 AM. Dinner will be served after the morning service, usually around noon. Afternoon service will begin at 2 PM. Youth service will begin at 6 PM, and the nightly service at 7 PM.

Brother Dwain Galiher from West Plains, Missouri will be the morning speaker. Our evening speaker will be Brother Randy Webb from Richlands, Virginia. Visiting ministers will be preaching in the afternoon service.

If you need accommodations please call the church at (937) 298-6555.

There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers, and for food. If you are able to accommodate any of our guests please see Sister Jane Sutherland.

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For the Christian, the dark shadow of death will be illuminated by the shining face of Jesus.

## Birthdays

Angela Garrett.....	4
Nathan Roberts .....	5
Mitch Hasty .....	5
Loretta Banks.....	6
Emily Tussey.....	8
Paula Tussey .....	8
Howard Rains.....	10
Lucille Minton .....	11
Lonnie Keeton.....	11
Beverly Scott.....	14
Mike Whitley.....	17
Kendall Garrett.....	18
Courtney Joseph .....	19
Regan Baker.....	21
Angela Napier .....	21
Evelyn Houston.....	22
Lauren Osborn .....	23
Carl DuHamel.....	23
Cody Spencer .....	27
Sarah Tussey.....	27
Billy Smith .....	31

## Anniversaries

Jeff & Debbie Roberts.....	1
Mike & Sharon Whitley .....	3
Lonnie & Tammy Keeton.....	6
Joe & Rhonda Spencer .....	8
Carl & Vickie Henson.....	9
Lee & Kim Abner .....	16
Frank & Mary Ann Lindsey ...	21

## God Knows

When will the little sparrow fall,  
Or the repenting sinner call? God knows!  
He is the keeper of your soul,  
And though things get out of control,  
He'll calm the stormy billows that roll! He knows!  
When you feel so down and out,  
He knows "what it's all about!" God knows!  
Yes, at those times when you're feeling down,  
And your whole world is spinning 'round and 'round,  
He'll guide you safely to solid ground! He knows!  
When all around your soul gives way,  
He's there to turn your night into day! God knows!  
When your trials seem to have no end,  
And you can't even confide in a friend! He knows!  
He will be your all in all,  
Lift you up when you fall,  
And always be there when you call! God knows!  
Friend, if trouble comes and you want to flee,  
And the narrow path you just cannot see,  
You'll hear His voice saying, "Just trust me! He knows!  
If in the valley your weary soul goes,  
It's there you will meet "Sharon's Rose!" God knows!  
With just one touch from Christ on your lowly frame,  
My friend, you'll be so glad He came,  
And you will never be the same! He knows!  
Soon you will be on the mountain high,  
And it will seem you can almost touch the sky! God knows!  
Then, when you breathe the mountain air,  
You will forget all about your care,  
And gratefully lift your voice in prayer! Friend, He knows!

Robert F. Dotson

Quest for happiness from page 1 in all the world's obtainments and attainments. He says, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

The rich Jewish farmer tried to secure happiness in the same manner. He said, "Soul, eat, drink and be merry. Just as if he could make his soul happy on such inadequate sources as eats and drinks. Eats and drinks might make a horse happy, but it can never make an immaterial soul happy. It is unphilosophical to think about making an immaterial soul happy on a material world. Husks are too coarse a food for an immortal soul. The smallest soul God ever made is too big to ever become satisfied on things. And according to what one preacher said years ago, there must be some pretty small souls. This preacher was asking his official board for a little raise in his salary. That board had two men on it who always thought it was their duty to oppose any motion that would raise a preacher's salary, so when the pastor asked for the raise, one of these fellows rose and said, "Why, Reverend, I thought all this time you were preaching for souls." The pastor said, "I am preaching for souls, but I cannot live on souls, and if I could, it would take 875,000 the size of yours to make one good mess."

No, the world cannot satisfy a soul. The world is one big cheat. It is a 6000-year swindle. It fleeces everybody it gets its hands on. It does not pay ten per cent of satisfaction; no, it does not pay two per cent.

You might as well feed your cow in the morning with the twenty-third Psalm instead of bran chops

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and expect it to satisfy her as to expect to satisfy your soul on things. You men cannot satisfy your souls on stocks and bonds and mortgages and city blocks, and you women cannot satisfy your souls on silks and satins and paint and powder.

Things cannot satisfy. Give a man five dollars a day, and he will want ten. Give him ten and he will want twenty. You cannot settle the labor question by shorter hours and bigger money, for satisfaction is a matter of religion, and nothing else can produce it. You can give a man \$10,000, but when he gets it, he will want \$100,000. Give him \$100,000, and he will want \$200,000, and he will want the \$200,000 two hundred times worse than he wanted the first thousand.

Elect a man constable, and he will want you to elect him sheriff. Elect him sheriff, and he will want you to elect him to Congress. Elect him to Congress, and he will want you to elect him President. Elect him President once, and he will want you to elect him President twice; elect him President twice, and he will want you to elect him three times; elect him President three times, and he will want you to elect him four times. I am not a prophet; I am a preacher, for there is little "profit" in preaching, but I will venture that this prophecy will come true. Wait and see.

Yes, the soul in its pursuit of happiness has taken man in every direction. It leaves its trail everywhere. Its tracks are found by the side of every earthy pool and cistern of pleasure. If we want to know how to find happiness, let us read the Sermon on the Mount. In the first few verses of the fifth chapter of Matthew Christ has

laid down the road to happiness. Christ tells us in these verses that happiness is not born of what we have or don't have, but is born of what we are. "Blessed are the poor in spirit." "Blessed are they that mourn." "Blessed are the meek." "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." "Blessed are the pure in heart." Christ did not say, "Blessed is the man who has amassed a fortune," nor, "Blessed is the woman who has become the darling of society," nor, "Blessed is the man who has a summer cottage on the seashore," but rather, "Blessed are the pure in heart." In these nine "blesseds" he gives us nine routes to happiness, but they all converge in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I heard Bishop Jones say more than forty years ago, "True happiness can exist only where it has for its basis a right character, and a right character can exist only where it has for its basis moral purity." Hence Christ was scientifically correct when he made moral purity the basis of genuine happiness.

Happiness does not come by indulgence; it is governed by law. You can get something that resembles happiness by indulgence, but it is not happiness.

A young person said to me, "Mr. Lincicome, you must have a dull time in life." I said, "What makes you think so?" "Because there are so many things you can't do that we can." I said, "What are some of those things?" And the reply was, "We can go to the dance and movies and many other places that you can't go to." Let me show you her reasoning, her logic. She is happier than I am simply because

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she can do some things I can't. I said to her, "You know many young people who can do things you would not do; you would not stoop to do them; they are far beneath your ideas of right. But according to your reasoning, they are happier than you are, because they can do some things you would not do. You know they are not happier than you are, and I know you are not happier than I am, for to be a Christian is to be the happiest person on earth.

"Happiness is not dependent on outward circumstances, but rather on inward harmony, and it is possible only to an evenly balanced and properly adjusted soul."

True happiness is not on the bargain counter. You can buy a little pleasure for fifty cents, and have a little fun for a quarter, but you can't buy happiness. Happiness does not consist in getting, but in giving. It does not consist in the multiplication of one's wealth, but rather in the subtraction of one's desires. So many have the idea that to become a Christian means the surrender of happiness. Not so; Christianity is not a fast; it is a feast. It is not a funeral; it is a festival. It is not a law; it is liberty. It is not gloom; it is gladness. It is not a shadow; it is a sunshine.

Carlyle said that happiness is like a common fraction, of which the numerator is what you have, and the denominator is what you think you have. The deluded soul seeks to increase the value of the fraction by multiplying the numerator, while the wise seek the same end by dividing the denominator.

Diogenes, the Greek philosopher, said, "A man's happiness is best promoted by the

decrease of his wants, rather than by an increase in his income."

"If you would have unbounded contentment you must have bounded desires." The Christian is the only person who has unbounded contentment, for he is the only person who has "bounded" desires. The desires of a Christian are bounded by the will of God. He desires nothing out and beyond the will of God.

One man, in describing a happy man, said, "The happy man is born in the city of regeneration, in the parish of repentance unto life, educated in the school of obedience, works at the trade of diligence, does many jobs of self-denial, owns a large estate in the county of Christian contentment, wears the plain garments of humility, breakfasts every morning on spiritual prayers, seeks every evening the same, has meat to eat the world knows not of, has gospel submission in his conduct, due order in his affections, sound peace in his conscience, satisfying love in his soul, real divinity in his breast, true humanity in his heart, the Redeemer's yoke upon his neck, a crown of glory on his head, and the world under his feet"

Many people live for "things," but that is a mistake, "for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." There are those whose estimate of life is found in thrills, but God's Word says, "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Since that is true, "then there certainly are a lot of animated corpses running around nowadays."

A colored man, alighting from a merry-go-round, was met by his wife with this accusation: "Now

look at you; you spent your money, you got off right where you got on, and you ain't been nowhere." It is a good description of modern living, a senseless whirl. Millions live for pleasure and never have it because they make it a business, whereas it is a by-product. The most miserable poor mortals on earth are those who scurry around in automobiles looking for a good time and never find it, who argue that "variety is the spice of life" and do not have sense enough to know we cannot live on spice.

Why spend your time at the lunch counters of earthly pleasure, when we have a standing invitation to the banquet of the grace of God? Seek the thrills God gives -- "joy unspeakable and full of glory." There is no morning aftertaste to the joy of the Lord.

Forman Lincicome

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Several hundred miles off the coast of Guam is the Mariana Trench, the deepest place in the ocean. The depth of the ocean is mind boggling. The Mariana Trench is nearly 7 miles down. The water pressure at the bottom of the trench is 15,931 pounds per square inch. Yet there is life on the ocean floor surviving despite the pressure and the darkness.

It's hard for us to fathom just how deep the Mariana trench is. But what we find much more difficult to comprehend is the love of God. God loved you and I so much that He spared not His only Son. Jesus laid down His life on

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Calvary so that your sins might be forgiven. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." 1st John 13:15.

Do you know of God's love? He's knocking at your hearts door. Won't you let Him in today?

I have a Friend whose faithful love  
Is more than all the world to me;  
It's higher than the heights above,  
And deeper than the boundless sea.

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The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

Theodore Hesburgh

Jesse James killed a fellow in a bank robbery and shortly thereafter was baptized in the Kearney Baptist Church. Then he killed another man, a bank cashier, and joined the church choir and taught hymn-singing. He liked Sundays, Jesse did, but he couldn't always show up at church. On two Sundays, he robbed trains.

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The world does not think it strange when people wreck their bodies, destroy their homes, and ruin their lives by running from one sin to another! But let a drunkard become sober, or an immoral person pure, and the family thinks he has lost his mind!

At the funeral services, the pastor got carried away and his sermon far exceeded the time limit. Finally his assistant whispered, "It's getting late sir!"

"I know," the pastor said, "but this doctrine of resurrection is extremely important."

"Yes, sir," the minister said, "But we've got to get the body over to the cemetery in time for it."

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The man who boasts that he never made a mistake has a wife who did.

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Most people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't so busy trying to place the blame on someone else.

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