

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

—Philippians 4:6,7

**Servants during August:**

Songleader: Stanley (4), Larry (11),
 Dwight (18), Stanley (25)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Mike M, Larry, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (7), Kris (14),
 Larry (21), Stanley (28)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Kris (4),
 Marty (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

Hays Mill church of Christ

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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About Being Happy

by Dee Bowman

When I was young, happiness was different than it is now. It was the same quest, I suppose, but it had more to do with things that it does now. Happiness came from having. It came from presents, from approval among your peers, from scoring the winning run or the most points, from thinking you were so important to a project that it just wouldn't be as good without you. Then, happiness was more in having than in being.

Men have forever sought to explain happiness. I have, in my own little philosophical world, joined the hunt. It's hard to look in the dictionary and find a definition that fits what I think in my own little philosophical world. The lexicographers don't define happiness very well—no better, in fact, than I do. I'm not sure why it's so hard. Maybe because it runs in too many different directions. Maybe because it never settles in

place for very long. Happiness seldom comes when you think it should. It very often comes from some serendipitous occasion, some time when you least expected it. And when it leaves, the taste left is often more bittersweet than confectionary, like you thought it would be.

By the process of living life you can eliminate some things which don't bring happiness. While it's a lesson never quite learned, time teaches all of us that having is not happiness. You don't have to be rich to learn that riches don't often bring happiness. Far too many examples exist of people who have had bundles of what this life offers and been miserable, totally forlorn. Experience also teaches that being comfortable is not what happiness is all about. Lots of folks don't hurt and they still aren't happy, while some live every day with almost intolerable pain and they are

extremely so. Why is that? Neither is happiness guaranteed by having notoriety. I have known people in my time who have become what the world denominates as “super-stars,” and they have only endless complaints about chronic bouts of disconsolation, while some of my former classmates who, as the world views things, never even “made it,” are ecstatically happy. Why?

I have made some small decisions about happiness. They aren’t very impressive perhaps, but they come from someone who cares.


First, we need to learn that happiness doesn’t come from externalities, but from being right with God. Making God first in your life is what happiness is all about—because it takes your joy out of the realm of what happens and puts it up into eternity where it belongs. If you want to be happy—truly blessed—get right with God, Mt 5:1-12. It’s where you’ll find “the peace that passeth understanding.”

Second, put your confidence in small bunches of little things, not in one big, bulky aspiration. For instance, learn to enjoy some obscure thing; some good piece of art, from someone who paints for fun; some good performance from some unknown artist; some delightful scene somewhere off the beaten path. Savor some good food; experience some new, exciting thought; give yourself to God in meditation and prayer—out loud—where no one can hear but you and

Him. Read Philippians 4:6-8. That’s what it says.

Third, be who you are. You can’t be truly happy when you’re trying to be someone other than yourself. *[Unless “yourself” includes unrepentant sinful behavior, like homosexuality. --kv]* There’s great peace in being satisfied with who and what you are. And we’d all be a lot more pleased with our lives if we’d just stop trying to be the star of the show, too. After all, everybody can’t be a star. Besides, it seems to me that I’m happier when I’m just one of the crowd. I rather enjoy being a part of the nameless number gathered around to watch the big guys do their thing.

Happiness comes when you learn to cry unashamedly or laugh confidently; when you can learn to tell the truth quietly; when you can be important to somebody else’s happiness without being boastful; when you are willing to run the risk of being vulnerable by caring; when you can go ahead and get involved, knowing you’re going to get egg on your face. I guess what it all comes down to is humility, knowing that without God, you’re just not much. Read Romans 12:3-10. It says all that.

Well, I reckon I didn’t help you much. Actually, I’ve done little to define happiness, less to describe it, and really not much to identify it. But I feel pretty happy getting to try. And I’m sure happy you took the time to read what I said. Thanks. 

She Thought She Loved...

by Kris Vilander


There was a child, the apple of her daddy’s eye. He loved her; she loved him—there was harmony. Every evening, before she went to bed, they would say goodnight to one another. He would tell her he loved her; she would tell him she loved him, too. And she did.

Time passed, and she grew, as children do. She became a teenager; and as teenagers often do, she became rebellious. There were times that she was not obedient to her father—she was willful and went her own way—and he would do his best to correct her, although not always with effect. Yet in the evening, before she went to bed, they would say goodnight to one another; he would tell her (sometimes with tears!) that he loved her, and she would tell him that she loved him, too.

More time passed, and she grew, as teenagers do. She became a lovely young woman; and as some are wont

to do, she was at times rebellious—though not as she had been. She was rarely openly so—yet, she thought her father old-fashioned; a little too religious. And she expressed that on occasion—but only when she let her guard down, and when she felt he couldn’t hear her. Yet in the evening, before she went to bed, they would say goodnight to one another. He would tell her (yet, in a voice touched with sadness) that he loved her, and she would tell him she loved him, too. And she really thought she did.

1 John 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome,” (cf Mt 15:18,19).

We can tell God we love Him in prayer before we go to bed at night, and really think we mean it; but the truth may be very different based on what we say, what we do, ...and what we think. And God knows. 

Remember in Prayer

Mike B continues to go through testing in preparation for heart surgery. **Stanley** is doing well while undergoing radiation treatments for skin cancer. **Vicky** has had a serious heart episode, and her husband **Mark** is still dealing with prostate cancer. **Hazel** remains in rehabilitation at Goldton, and is also progressing nicely. **Joshua V** continues to

undergo testing to determine the cause of his illness. **Pam** has been exposed to COVID through her granddaughter **Kaylee**, although both seems okay.

Please continue to pray for those other brethren we know and love, including **Betty**; **Kathy Mitchell**; and **the Pollard Family**. 