

Date: February 14, 2021

Series Title: The Pursuit of Happiness

Sermon Title: “Delight”

Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart

Scripture: Psalm 37:4



About 78% of Americans today identify as Christians.

For generations, there have been many, many people who have tricked themselves into believing a false idea of what it means to be a Christian. They're believing a lie.

**Happiness is a salvation issue.
You are commanded & expected to be happy in God.**

Matthew 7:14 ESV *For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Matthew 7:21 ESV *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 7:22–23 ESV *On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

Matthew 6:33 ESV *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Matthew 13:44 ESV *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

Philippians 3:8 ESV *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*

Will you receive Jesus as your ultimate treasure?

Psalm 37:4 ESV – the context is: Worry & trouble.

There's anxiety. There's fear. There's hopelessness...worry & trouble.

Psalm 37:4 ESV

*Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

It's not about God's what God does for you.

It's not about created things...as beautiful as they may be.

It's about the very specific person of God—Yahweh.

Psalm 27:4 ESV

*One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.*

God becomes our one thing.

If we have Him, we have EVERYTHING.

Psalm 73:25–26 ESV

*Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Psalm 73:28 ESV

*But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.*

When we enjoy God Himself—not just His good gifts—then, the desires of our hearts are shaped, defined, and molded into alignment with our delight in Him.

“God is the author of all true happiness; he is the donor of all true happiness... He that hath him for his God, for his portion, is the only happy man in the world.” —Thomas Brooks

“When we first know Christ... then it is that happiness begins; happiness real, solid, substantial.” —John Wesley

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” —Westminster Shorter Catechism

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” —John Piper

Psalm 115:3 ESV

*Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.*

John 17:24 ESV *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

**Because God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him,
_____ yourself in the Lord.**

1. Praise

God gives us Himself to prove to us that He is loving and so that we’ll delight in Him.

**“I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise unless shyness or the fear of boring others is deliberately brought in to check it.”*

—C. S. Lewis

Our delight & joy in God is incomplete until we express it with praise.

2. Love

John 13:34–35 ESV *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

**Love glorifies God.
Our love for God and our love for others.**

3. Prayer

A person seldom goes into his closet to pour out his heart to God without first delighting in the Lord.

When you pray, do it with reverence & perseverance.

Psalm 21:2 ESV

*You have given him his heart's desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah*

Matthew 7:7 ESV *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

Tell God that you want to delight in Him...that you want Him to be your ultimate treasure.

Enjoy God.

Because God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him, delight in Him.