

# THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS – Joyless Labor

July 6-7, 2024

“People don’t buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe” – **Simon Sinek**

**Jeremiah 1:4-8 (NIV)** – The word of the Lord came to me, saying: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations”. “Alas, Sovereign Lord”, I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young”. But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young’. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you”, declares the Lord.

**Luke 1:16-17 (NIV)** - “He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord”.

**Jeremiah 20:8-9 (NIV)** – “Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach all day long. But if I say, ‘I will not mention His word or speak anymore in His name’, His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot”.

“It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, ‘Peace! Peace!’, but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” – **Patrick Henry, Second Virginia Convention**

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**Exodus 14:10-12 (NIV)** – As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

**Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 (NIV)** – “I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: God gives some people wealth, possessions, and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil”.

**Ecclesiastes 6:3-6 (NIV)** – “A man may have a hundred children and live many years; yet no matter how long he lives, if he cannot enjoy his prosperity and does not receive proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. It comes without meaning, it departs in darkness, and in darkness its name is shrouded. Thought it never saw the sun or knew anything, it has more rest than does that man – even if he lives a thousand years twice over but fails to enjoy his prosperity. Do not all go to the same place?”

“When I was young and first in the business, a good friend told me, ‘Always remember, the number of people at your funeral will be largely dependent on the weather’” – **Vince Gill**

**Job 3:1-4 (NIV)** – After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said: “May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’ That day – may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it”.

**Ecclesiastes 6:7-9 (NIV)** – “Everyone’s toil is for their mouth, yet their appetite is never satisfied. What advantage have the wise over fools? What do the poor gain by knowing how to conduct themselves before others? Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind”.

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**Colossians 3:22-24 (NIV)** – “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving”.

**Ecclesiastes 6:10-12 (NIV)** – “Whatever exists has already been named, and what humanity is has been known; no one can contend with someone who is stronger. The more the words, the less the meaning, and how does that profit anyone? For who knows what is good for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow? Who can tell them what will happen under the sun after they are gone?”

**Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)** – “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose”.

“Christ died for His church...so you don't have to! Rest is trust” – ***Pastor Antoine Lassiter***

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