

# THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

## In Psalms, Proverbs And New Testament

David Renwick. National Presbyterian Church. September 7, 2014

Greek: *makarios* – translated inconsistently: often as “blessed”, but sometimes (especially in The ancient Greek translation of the Psalms and Proverbs) as “happy.”

## PSALMS & PROVERBS

### RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Psalms 144:15 **Happy** are the people whose God is the LORD.

Psalms 65:4 **Happy** are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.

Psalms 84:4-5 **Happy** are those who live in God’s house, ever singing your praise.

**Happy** are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Psalms 33:12 **Happy** is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

Proverbs 16:20 **Happy** are those who trust in the LORD.

### HAVE GOD AS A SOURCE OF HELP

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; **happy** are those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 40:4 **Happy** are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. (84:12)

Psalms 146:5 **Happy** are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God

### WITHIN FAMILY

Psalms 127:5 **Happy** is the man who has his quiver full of children.

Proverbs 31:28 (The virtuous woman): Her children rise up and call her **Happy**; her husband too, and he praises her:

### KNOWING FORGIVENESS

Psalms 32:1-2 **Happy** are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Happy** are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, in whose spirit there is no deceit.

### FOLLOWING THE PATH

Psalms 1:1 **Happy** are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate both day and night.

Psalms 119:1-2 **Happy** are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

**Happy** are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart

Proverbs 3:13,18 **Happy** are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding. . .

She (Wisdom) is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called **Happy**. (also 8:32, 34)

Proverbs 20:7 The righteous walk in integrity **Happy** are the children who follow them!

### CARE FOR OTHERS

Psalms 41:1-2 **Happy** are those *who consider the poor*; the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble. 2. . . they are called **happy** in the land.

Psalms 106:3 **Happy** are those who *observe justice*, who do righteousness at all times.

Proverbs 14:21 **Happy** are those who are *kind to the poor*.

### LIVE UNDER GOD’S AUTHORITY

Psalms 94:12 **Happy** are those whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law

Psalms 128:1 **Happy** is everyone who fears the LORD (112:1)

Proverbs 28:14 **Happy** is the one who is never without fear of the Lord (NIV), but one who is hard hearted will fall into calamity.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint, but **happy** are those who keep the law.

## NEW TESTAMENT

### RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Matthew 16:17 Jesus answered Peter, ‘**Happy** are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed (who I am) to you, but my Father in heaven.”

John 20:29 Jesus said to Thomas, “Have you believed because you have seen me? **Happy** are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Luke 1:48 (Mary’s Song: ) God has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me **happy**;

Matthew 11:6 Jesus said: “**Happy** is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

### FOLLOWING THE PATH (EVEN WHEN HARD)

Luke 11:28 . Jesus said, “**Happy** are those who hear the word of God and obey it!”

Luke 12:43 **Happy** is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

Acts 20:35 (Paul) remember the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘There is more **happiness** in giving than receiving.’

James 1:25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be **happy** in their doing.

1 Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are **happy**, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

### KNOWING OUR PRESENT AND FINAL DESTINATION

Luke 14:15 One of the dinner guests said, “**Happy** is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

James 1:12 **Happy** is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: **Happy** are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

Revelation 19:9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Happy** are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

## MATTHEW 5 – THE BEATITUDES

3 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 ‘**Blessed/Happy** are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.