

“This Psalm is for You”
Psalm 112 John 14:25-27
August 26, 2007

The Psalm is for you, literally!

Psalm 112 is considered one of a pair, the other is Psalm 111. While Psalm 111 is about God, Psalm 112 is about the Godly man or woman, it is about you, and how best to understand yourself as you stand before God.

Like 111, Psalm 112 is an acrostic poem of twenty-two measures, each measure begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with each measure composed of three Hebrew words or bound expressions. Words, phrases, and even an entire clause from Psalm 111 are repeated in 112.

Psalm 111 ends with *“The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.”*

Psalm 112 begins with *“Happy is the one who fears the Lord.”*

Psalm 112 also hold in common some fundamental features with Psalm 1; both are expanded beatitudes, commend delight in the law, describe the blessing of the righteous, and contrast the transience of the wicked.

Psalm 112 is for you, and your descendants.

*Blessed is the one that feareth the Lord,
his seed shall be mighty,
wealth and riches shall be in his house,
there ariseth light in the darkness,
he shall not be afraid of evil tidings,
his heart is steady, he will not be afraid.*

Recently I was given a book which has a title that would not have attracted my attention; ***The Happiness Hypothesis, Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom.***

This is not Norman Vince Peale.

One commentator called it *‘a sparkling investigation into the psychology of life and happiness.’*

If you have ever wondered why you are so happy, or unhappy, read this book!

Dr. Jonathan Haidt, a professor at UVA, starts his book *‘I first rode a horse in 1991.’*

Dr. Haidt would not get high marks on his horsemanship, but his research into the ancient wisdom and his ten great ideas for happiness analyzed from modern literature and science is excellent.

Happiness is big business. Nearly 2 million sites on Google offer guidance to happiness.

Dr. Haidt points out that advice on how to live from the ancient thinkers, like Plato, is not unlike advice from the modern Dr. Phil’s.

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- How we think about the world,
- How we share,
- How we judge,
- How we love,
- How we handle adversities are all apart of how happy we find ourselves.

Not once in this book, did I find anything about how *‘blessed is the one who fears the Lord.’*

Even the most cynic of psychologist; who said *‘trying to be happier is like trying to be taller’* did not have anything to say about how fear would make us happier and blessed.

I have heard the message and read the material that the Hebrew writers really meant *‘awe’* and *‘respect’* when they wrote *‘fear.’*

But, what if they meant what they said, *‘blessed is the one who fears the Lord.’*

Fear, like unhappiness, is not always a bad thing. Most of us were taught to fear things as children, so that we would survive to be adult. I still have a healthy fear of things I can not control, like wind and water...and fire.

We spend millions on security and safety, protection and padding, chasing fears away.

This ‘what if’ Psalm is for you and me.

What if the author is right, what if our fear of the Lord could bring all other things into harmony, a blessing that would go down generation after generation, a light into the darkness that chases away the evil doers.

I never heard my father say a cuss word, never heard him raise his voice in anger, never received a blow from his hand, but I feared him. I did not fear what he would do, his love was steady and good, but I feared what my behavior would do to him.

How I could break his heart with my behavior, how I could cause him to weep over my world. What if we lived today in world where our fear of God would cause us to keep his commandments, to be generous to the stranger, and to have a steady heart?

What if there is a peace beyond our understanding that takes away all fears?

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