

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

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Happy? – I John 1:4

A Devotion for Families by *Dr. Jim Smyrl*

How do people try to find happiness apart from Jesus?

Why do these things provide happiness that is only temporary?

Happiness in worldly pursuits is imperfect and temporary because all the things this world has to offer are imperfect and temporary. Only Jesus provides perfect joy that lasts because He is perfect and eternal.

Look at Your Heart

What do you possess and what activities in which you are involved do you believe bring you the most happiness?

Seeking His Face

Ask God to help you be content in Jesus alone.

Examining the Text

Remember, John is addressing the issue of assurance of salvation. In this verse he deals with the one avenue that those in Christ find true satisfaction.

In verse 4 John writes, “these things we write to you,” to what things in verses 1-3 is John referring? Summarize the first three verses noting: Christ’s deity: “from the beginning,” (1); His humanity: “heard . . . seen . . . looked . . . handled . . . manifested” (1-2); His eternity: “with the Father” (2); His place in the Trinity: “His Son Jesus Christ” (3).

When John writes verse 4 emphasizing that the things in verses 1-3 produce joy, what is he saying is the one way for believers to have joy?

Note: Joy is only through a clear understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ, and a heart submission to Him as Lord and Savior.

What does it mean if I say a glass is full of water? Can you put any more water in a full glass? Note: The word John uses for “full” in verse 4 can also mean complete or filled to capacity. It is only when Jesus is the most important person in our lives that we will have this sense of completeness in our hearts.

Why do people continually search for things in order to be happy?

Note that it is because they have not made Jesus first in their lives and as a result they live life with a sense of continually being incomplete. Only Jesus provides life that is full and complete.

Applying the Text

Do you find yourself trying to feel complete and full by possessions or relationships or accomplishments?

Pray something like this: Thank you Jesus for making yourself known by coming to earth as the perfect God-man. Thank you for making yourself known so that I may know you as Savior, be complete in you, and never have to live life searching for something or someone to fill my heart.