

Session #22 – The Happiness of God.

The Happiness of God. It is more than just an inference.

1 Timothy 1:11 – Paul refers to the one true God as “the blessed God.”

The fundamental meaning of the word “Blessed” (the Greek word *makarios*) is happy.

Andrew Wilson calls this happiness “a serious, lasting, ecstatic joy” (*Incomparable*, 274).

In 1 Timothy 1:11, Paul asserts that the gospel reveals the _____ of the happy God. Reconciling sinners to himself is something in which God takes _____. This happiness radiates glory. In the work and preaching of the good news, God is gloriously manifesting his happiness. He makes his face shine upon sinners through the gospel and gives them peace. He is happy to do so. God is a happy God.

1 Timothy 6:15 – God is “the **BLESSED** and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords ... To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

Again the word fundamentally means happy. Right here among these majestic descriptions of the characteristics that distinguish God as God, we find the declaration that he is the blessed God. He is happy.

John Piper writes, “A great part of God’s glory is his happiness. It was inconceivable to the apostle Paul that God could be denied infinite joy and still be all-glorious. To be infinitely glorious was to be infinitely happy. He used the phrase, ‘the glory of the happy God,’ because it is a glorious thing for God to be as happy as he is — infinitely happy. God’s glory consists much in the fact that he is happy beyond our wildest imagination.” (From <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/good-news-god-is-happy>)

The Happiness of God. It’s just not dignified?

Why is this attribute of God has been so overlooked?

Randy Alcorn points out that in the overwhelming majority of places this word appears in the English translations, *makarios* is translated as happy, but not here in Timothy. He writes, “It is understandable that John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and the translators of the King James Version rendered this phrase, “the blessed God,” since in the 1300s – 1600s the word blessed included a clear notion of happiness. But that’s no longer the case. Not only do people rarely use the word happiness in relation to God, but they also don’t attach the meaning of happiness when they see “blessed God” (127-128).

Alcorn argues that people should not shrink back from speaking of the happiness of God. It is not blasphemous, and it ought not sound awkward or unfamiliar.

The Happiness of God. There is Further Evidence.

1. _____ is an occasion of God’s gladness. God delights in his very good world.

Genesis 1:31 –

Job 38:4, 7 –

When God created the earth, it was jubilantly celebrated by the angels. Significantly, they are here called the sons of God suggesting their likeness to him. No doubt their joy and gladness reflects God’s own happiness in the magnificence of what he had made.

Job 39:19-25 –

2. God _____ over his people.

Zephaniah 3:17 –

Isaiah 62:4-5 –

3. God's people find happiness in _____.

Psalm 2:12; Psalm 33:12; Psalm 65:4; Psalm 16:11; Philippians 4:4

These texts do not say straightforwardly that God is happy, but if God is not happy what would it mean that he is the means of happiness for those who trust him and dwell in his presence? Unhappy people do not engender our happiness. How could we find joy in a person who is joyless?

4. God rejoices when sinners _____.

Luke 15:1-7 – The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:11-32 – The Parable of the Prodigal Son

5. God is happy to _____ his happiness.

Psalm 36:7-8 –

Psalm 104:34 –

6. The Christian's ultimate reward is to share in the _____ happiness of God.

Matthew 25:23 –

7. The _____ of the Spirit bears witness that God is happy.

Galatians 5:22 –

The Happiness of God and the Christian's Response

1. Praise the Happy God.

2. Praise God that he is the fountain of our joy.

3. Think happy thoughts of heaven.

4. We should consciously affirm that holiness and happiness are the best of friends rather than the worst of enemies. Sin is a joy killer not a joy filler.

5. We should not hesitate to pursue that which makes for true happiness. The happy God wants his people to be happy. And they will be if they are drawing near him. Happiness is not an end in itself; it is the byproduct of godliness.