
Rescued from our self-made trap

Romans 7:21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

²² *For in my inner being I delight in God's law;*

²³ *but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.*

²⁴ *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*

²⁵ *Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

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Made Happy*

* God gets to define “happy”

Why God Became Man—pt 4

December 21, 2014

Why God Became Man:

Week 1: Made Alive.

Week 2: Made Right.

Week 3: Made Honorable.

*Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people.*

What is "happiness?"

The world's routes to "happiness"

*Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as **the son of Pharaoh's daughter**.*

²⁵ *He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to **enjoy the pleasures of sin** for a short time.*

²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than **the treasures of Egypt**, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

What is real happiness?

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, **refused to be known as** the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

²⁵ He **chose to be mistreated along with the people of God** rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

²⁶ He regarded **disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value** than the treasures of Egypt, because he was **looking ahead to his reward**.

²⁷ By faith **he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered** because **he saw him who is invisible**.

How would Moses define "happiness?" Is it more:

A settled satisfaction of being on the right road with God?

A result of doing the right thing, rather than feeling a certain way?

The anticipation of greater joy than the experience of very short "happy" feelings?

A settled assurance that you are on God's "winning team" than feeling good now, and knowing some day you won't regret fumbling the opportunity God gave you?

About what God thinks of me than what anyone, or "everyone," or what even I think of me?

About eternal (or lasting) joy than temporal or fleeting enjoyment?

Joy amidst great difficulty

Habakkuk 3:17 *Though the fig tree do not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,*

¹⁸ *yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

¹⁹ *GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he makes me tread upon my high places.*
