

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

## Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

### Schedule Of Services:

<b>Lord's Day:</b>	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

#### *Our Elders:*

Johnie Dodds  
Harry Elliott  
Austin Willis

#### *Our Deacons:*

Danny Carpenter  
Wayne Hulme  
Tommy Sawyers

*Our Preacher:* T. Sean Sullivan

## The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

# Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

## Discovering Happiness

As we travel through this life, it is a great blessing to discover that happiness is a choice. We can have a level of happiness independent of our surroundings or immediate influences. The beauty of this is that we can know happiness instead of continually looking for some ideal of happiness that may or may not exist. God enables our choice by His many motivations.

There are too many people who play the "I will be happy when" game. This usually starts at an early age and continues into adulthood. The idea that I will be happy "when" or "if", "this" or "that" happens is really impossible to satisfy. When Christians find this being their habit they will struggle to discover the joy of heart that is available in Christ (John 15:11; 1 John 1:4)

How happy should we be? Is there a limit? Jesus said that he wants our joy to be full—not partial, but full. Let's go to the Bible to consider in greater detail some true reasons for choosing and having present happiness.

### The Better Way of Life

Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am THE way, the truth and life". This statement shows the exclusivity of Jesus' doctrine. Not

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only its exclusivity but also its certainty; we can know the true way. He continued to say, *"No one comes to the Father through Me."*

Consider all of the confusion involved in religion today. This is certainly leading to the problems that people perceive in the Bible, but are actually in the fault is in those who misapply.

The truth can be known (John 8:31-32). The truth provides for an empowered life here and now (Galatians 5:22-23). When we understand that the Bible holds the plan for empowered living right now, we need to be eager for the word (2 Timothy 2:15): Eager to study (1 Timothy 4:13-16); eager to use the word properly (Ephesians 5:8-10); eager to apply the word (James 1:22); eager to show ourselves approved of God (Matthew 7:21). We need to be eager to find the joys of righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

### **The Freedom from Sin**

An opportunity of reunion with God is joyful knowledge. On the other side: sin is sorrow. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2; Revelation 21:27). Sin enslaves sinners (John 8:34 *"Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin"*). Sin is a place of sorrow and darkness.

God makes joy available because God makes salvation from our sins available. According to Romans 5:6-11, God has offered us hope when we were without hope. We are able to change from "without hope" to "justified, saved, and reconciled". Jesus invites us to relief from the burden we carry as sinners in Matthew 11:28: *"Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest"*. The joy rooted in our relief.

Great joy is a result of knowing that we have been set free from the sin that once enslaved us (Romans 6:17-18). Jesus paid the debt of our sins. The price was paid with blood (Hebrews 10: 12-22; 1 Peter 1:18) and through Him we are provided our way to the Father (John 14:6).

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### **The Hope in Eternity**

We have already expressed that Joy is long-term. Heaven may be many years away for us. The joy of knowing that Heaven is our home and we will be welcomed there is a cause of great joy. Jesus explained that He would come again to gather us (John 14:1-3); we would go to a prepared place. Our prepared place is a place of eternal life in the presence of God (Revelation 21:27), and a place of rest (Revelation 14:12-13). The promise of heaven is what brings us joy even in times of trial (1 Peter 1:3-9). Joy is enduring and true when we find the joy that God supplies.

### **Conclusion:**

Happiness is a powerful tool for our lives. Being happy will help us remain courageous through hard times. Joy will help us in times of temptation. We know that God is the source for our true joy and we will not want to jeopardize that joy by sinning.

Another great empowerment of happiness is that others will see us and desire to have the same. True deep down happiness only comes from knowing God and following His word. If we follow His word our joy will be full and we can help others find the same joy. We can improve our lives and have happy hearts. ~tss

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