

## Bible Rules For Happy Living

Most everyone I know wants to be happy and have a happy life. It is not like I hear people saying, "You know, I wish I could be more miserable. I think I could really be happy if I could just be more miserable." Why,

that is ludicrous! Since most people want to be happy, perhaps it would be logical for the Christian to examine the Scriptures.

### 1. Count your blessings, not your troubles.

Though we have problems in this life, we are still richly blessed. The (now familiar) plaque on the wall stated, "I grumbled and complained because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet."

**2. Live one day at a time.** Regardless of what Satan may throw at you, it can be handled "one day at a time" (James 4:13-15). You can control and conquer if you will take on the obstacles a day at a time.

**3. Learn to say, "I love you"** to those near and dear. Break the shackles and learned restraints, and express your love and appreciation to as many as possible each day (Mark 14:3-6).

**4. Be a giver and not a getter.** Often if you fail to get out of life what you want, it is because you are expecting to *get* instead of *give* (Luke 6:38).

**5. Seek good in everyone and everything.** Be a *good* seeker. Try hard not to be a *fault finder*. When faults are present, deal with them lovingly.

**6. Pray every day.** Always take time to express to God your appreciation for (each) blessing and ask Him for guidance (Luke 18:1).

**7. Do a good deed each day.** The "grandest intention" is not as good as the "smallest deed". Follow the Lord's example (Acts 10:38).

**8. Watch your priorities.** Keep the important things in first place (Matthew 6:33).

**9. Fill your life with good.** Throw away the *trash* in your life, and replace it with good thoughts and deeds (Philippians 4:8).

**10. Learn to practice the happiness habit.** Smile, and the world will smile with you (continued)

## The Addition of the Law—5

Galatians 3:19 asks the question, "*Wherefore then serveth the law?*" The answer then follows, "*It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made.*" To what was it "added," and why? We continue in our task of answering these and other questions from Galatians 3.

We have seen that the law of Moses was "added" to the promise of Abraham because of sin (Galatians 3:16-19). As stated by Paul, that addition occurred 430 years after the promise (Galatians 3:17). The law pointed out the effects of sin (Romans 3:20; 7:7), but provided not remedy for sin (Hebrews 10:1-10). The temporary nature of the law of Moses is seen in the fact that it was "added...till" (Galatians 3:19). Since it was temporary, at what point would the law of Moses become invalid?

Paul reveals that the law of Moses was added to the promise of Abraham "*till the seed should come to whom the promise was made*" (Galatians 3:19). As already seen, "the seed" was Christ (Galatians 3:16). Thus, it should be an easy matter to determine that at some point with the coming of Christ came also the end of the law of Moses. Jesus stated that He came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17). Thus, when He did so, that law ended and a new law came into effect. This is made clear in a number of passages. From the cross Jesus said, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). In Hebrews 10:9, the Scripture affirms that He took away the first (the law of Moses) that He may establish the second (His law). It further states that it is by that second will (the New Testament) that we are "*sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*" (Hebrews 10:10). Inspiration emphatically states that Christ blotted out the law of Moses (having fulfilled it) and "*took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross*" (Colossians 2:14). Christ (not Moses) is the Mediator of the new and better covenant (Hebrews 9:15). That Jesus is now the authority was clearly revealed (continued)

**Bible Rules for Happy Living** (continued)  
(Philippians 4:4). Make up your mind to “be happy”.  
Kris Groda

**The Addition of the Law—5** (continued)  
at His transfiguration (Matthew 17:5). Hence, when Jesus died on the cross, the law of Moses was “blotted out” and the law of Christ (the New Testament) became operative (Hebrews 9:16, 17). For a time that will was contained in “earthen vessels” (inspired men—II Corinthians 4:7), but now in its completed form has been given to men in a book (I Corinthians 2:7-13; 14:37; James 1:25; II Peter 1:21). That will is the New Testament.

As stated at the outset of our study, if the religious world understood the distinction between the Old and New Testaments and the purposes of each, it would go far in resolving much of the false doctrine that is taught. Men, by and large, however, do not understand nor recognize this distinction, but rather continually confuse and combine the two. In-depth study of such passages as Galatians 3 would greatly alleviate many of these problems. But, alas, as Hosea stated, “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6).

Eddy

### **Modern Enemies of the Christian Character**

A look at pitfalls common to us all:

**1. Modesty:** This character trait expresses a respect for all mankind. It indicates deep esteem of oneself and those with which he may have contact. Clothing is a mark of civilization. Clothing and how it is worn reflects the degree of modesty or lack of it in the individual. The first step away from modesty is the attitude that clothing does not matter. The Holy Spirit commands the child of God to be modest, godly, wearing his clothing with shamefacedness and sobriety. Women have great influence over men for either good or bad. The way they dress, walk, talk and conduct themselves is covered by the word “modesty”. That is one reason many men lack proper respect for women. Worldly women show no self-respect; thus they do not receive any from others.

Mothers teach their sons early in life. When mothers fail in great numbers, murders, rapes, abuse of all kinds is common in the world. None of us dares have an attitude of indifference. Fathers and mothers must instill in their children respect for others whether others are worthy or not. It is what we are, not what they deserve!

### **2. Television and entertainment in general.**

Though not popular to say so, much (most, almost all) of the entertainment today is filled with immodesty unbecoming of the godliness required of the Christian character. Good people know this, but if they tolerate it for a spell, it becomes less and less offensive.

Most of our readers will not remember this. When the classic, *Gone with the Wind*, was filmed by Hollywood in the late thirties, Clark Gable was allowed to say with emphasis what today is considered a very mild curse

word, “damn”. What a roar of protest went up. Preachers condemned the producers for corrupting our whole society. Compare that standard with the public language of today’s programming. We all warned that Hollywood would corrupt our Christian nation. We were right! (Unwed mothers, unwed couples living together, divorced parents, homosexual relationships, situation comedies, guests on family talk shows, all unabashedly present such as acceptable, even desirable.)

How long since you looked up the meaning of adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revelings and such like? Well, that is too long! The so-called performing arts are at the very core of the problem. Face it, my dear Christian friend, our public schools, our institutions of higher learning, including those founded by godly men of three or four generations ago are no saturated with low, very low, standards of moral conduct. They want it so!

We are in a spiritual war of moral terrorism! If you do not think so, then you are already lost to the enemy. The Christian should not despair! The Roman society was evil, the Jewish nation was corrupt. The Apostle Paul presented the way of the Lord as a spiritual, never-ending battle. It is personal, an individual struggle with very much at stake. Not only our souls, but the souls of those whom we dearly love are in great jeopardy. Take heart! The battle can be won!

Carl G. Hecker

### **Today**

Outside my window, a new day I see,  
And only I can determine what kind it will be.  
It can be busy and sunny, laughing and gay  
Or boring and cold, unhappy and gray.  
For my own state of mind is the determining key,  
For I am only the person I let myself be.  
I can be thoughtful and do all I can to help,  
Or be selfish and think just of myself.  
I can enjoy what I do and make it seem fun,  
Or gripe and complain and make it hard on someone.  
I can be patient with those who might not understand  
Or belittle and hurt them as much as I can.  
But I have faith in the Lord and believe when I say,  
I personally intend to make the best of each day.

author unknown  
Via Central C/C, Denison, TX

*“Have a sincere desire to serve God and mankind and stop doubting, stop thinking negatively....Simply start living by faith, pray earnestly and humbly, and get into the habit of looking for the best....When you live on a faith basis, your desire will be only for that which you can ask in God’s name.”*

—Norman Vincent Peale

## SICK

(at home) **Lynn & Mary Anderson, Oliver & Miriam Majors. Ruth Reich** is recovering at home from a heart attack. **Sharon Basham**, Susan Mountcastle's sister-in-law, (907 Corner Grove RD, Willis, VA 24380) has been diagnosed ovarian cancer. **Bonnie Gabbard**, Glenn & Audrey's sister-in-law, has cancer, and we have been asked to pray that she might have comfort from pain. **Greg Yotka**, co-worker of Tom Richardson (26), (2617 Sharmar RD, SW, 24018) will have surgery on his thyroid on 10/5; possible malignancy.

*Continue to remember:* **Bob Barber, Norma Biller, Betty Buckner, Willard Campbell, Marguerite Charles** (moved to the VA Care Center on Shenandoah AV, #101, this week; seeks our prayers as she makes this difficult transition. Her new phone number is 342-0242), **Russ Danstrom, Harry DeHart** (pathology shows rare, aggressive cancer, Stage 4; Neuro-PCU, RMH), **Jim Dorsett, Cory Driver** (hole in heart is very small; no treatment called for), **Paul Faw, Tony Glass, Collin & Luetta Gregory, Patti Gwaltney, Glenn & Jo Hartman, Ron Hasenbeck, Dee House, Dan Hudgins, A.C & Mickie Janney, Betty Jenkins, Martha Keith, Margaret Kratz, Sophia Mays, Randall Mitchell, Donnie & Susan Mountcastle, Jo Musgrove, Rick Perry, Larry Phillips** (had heart catheterization last week), **Georgia Pyott, Missy Reynolds, Murphy & Evelyn Scott, Annette Shrader, Ruth Stanton, Evelyn White, Jessica White, Teresa White, Travis Wilson, E.V.** (consultation for pacemaker implant, 10/3) & **Effie Wimmer, W.J. Wood**

**REJOICE! Mike (5/22), Leane (5/12) & Krystle (2/22) Black** were baptized on 9/10. We rejoice with this family and welcome them to West Side. Their address is 327 Riverland RD, Salem; 293-1332, and their anniversary is 8/12.

**RESTORED: Paul Mays.** We also have received word that **Donnie Charles** was restored and placed membership at Dale Ridge. We rejoice with Marguerite at this news.

**MISSIONARIES: the Staffords** and the TZ2000 team.

**MILITARY: Ty Stricklin; John Shannon and Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo; **Jonathan Simpson** will be returning to Iraq on 10/1. **OTHER: Brandy Hall.** On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006.

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

**Angelo Espn Duran** (5 lbs. 13 ozs.) was born to **John and Bambi Duran** on Tuesday, 9/12. Proud grandparents are **Bob & Sandy Garby.**

## THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

**Today:** TURN, TURN, TURN Planners meet, 4:30pm, teachers' workroom. Happy birthday to **Bradford Durham!** Happy anniversary to **Herbert & Shirley Baker!**

**Monday:** Happy birthday to **Ivy Bush, Ed Mickens & Lyn Shrader!** Happy anniversary to **Paul & Yvette Mays!**

**Tuesday:** Happy anniversary to **David & Hazel McFalls!**

**Wednesday:** Bible Study, 7pm. **Deadline for TTT Registrations.** Happy anniversary to **Ortie & Patsy Boyd!**

**Saturday:** Suffolk Ladies' Day

**Sunday, 10/1:** Elders/Deacons/Preachers meeting, 4pm.

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS

Torengos (tortilla chips in a can), zip lock bags (any size)

## TURN, TURN, TURN 2006

**"You Can't Always Have It Your Way" (Learning Contentment)** (Philippians 4:11; Luke 2:52). **Celicia Grider** of Collierville, TN, will be the featured speaker on **Saturday, October 7.** Activities begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast. There is no cost for this year's event. Registration forms are available in the foyer. **Registration deadline is September 27.** Planners will meet today at 4:30pm in the teachers' workroom to finalize details and work on packets. The planner who has the packet proofs is asked to bring it to the meeting.

## WEST SIDE GOSPEL MEETING

**Sunday, October 15-Wednesday, October 18** with **Keith Mosher**, Memphis, TN. Sunday lunch will be a potluck dinner. Teams 2 (Garby) and 3 (Brown) will set up; Teams 1 (Duff) and 4 (Rogers) will clean up. Dinner schedule is as follows: Monday—Teams 1 & 3 will host fellowship meal, 5:45pm; Tuesday—Team 2, Wednesday—Team 4. See your team leader for details. A sign up sheet is posted to host Brother Mosher for lunch.

## SW VA INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

It's time for West Siders and their friends to hit the greens again. The annual event is scheduled for Saturday, 10/21, 11am at Blue Hills Golf Club. A sign-up sheet will be posted. See **Crawford Keith** if you have any questions.

## UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Gospel singing and covered-dish lunch, Sat. 9/30, Rich Creek, 11:30am—

Gospel meeting w/James Boyd, Southside in Galax, 10/1-5, 7pm nightly

Gospel meeting w/Clarence DeLoach, Christiansburg, 7:30pm, Monday-Wednesday

Gospel meeting w/Harry Middleton, Pearisburg, 10/8-12

Gospel meeting w/Clayton Winters, Ft. Chiswell, 10/15-18

10th Annual Cold Harbor Road Lectures, 11/2-5; "Let Us Observe...Lectures in Memory of Charles Wendell Winkler"

## What Can I Do for Our Gospel Meeting?

- I can come early and attend every service.
- I can use my telephone and invite others.
- I can sit near the front, thereby conveying to others a heightened degree of interest in the worship.
- I can bring a visitor with me.
- I can welcome the visitors and invite them to come again.
- I can assist the song leader by helping him sing every song in spirit and in truth.
- I can pray for and encourage lost souls to obey the gospel.
- I can encourage my brethren who are "out of duty" to come and repent.
- I can offer my assistance in anything that is needed to be done. —Ivie Powell

Our gospel meeting is only three weeks away. Have you been praying for the speaker, for the services, for those lost souls who need to be here? Are you making your plans not to miss a single service and to participate in every way you can? If not, why not?

