

Dennis R. Wiles  
First Baptist Arlington  
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**2025: Flourishing Together: *Rooted in Christ***  
1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (Gospel Guide: Matthew)

**WINTER 2025: *Happiness Is . . .***

**The Beatitudes**

January 5 - March 4, 2025

***Don't Worry, Be Happy!***

Psalm 68:3-6

**Theme for 2025: Flourishing Together: *Rooted in Christ***

The creation narratives the Scriptures begin with are an important source for discerning God's intent for the human person. There it seems that God's intent for each person and for all creation is that all aspects of being should be good. At the completion of the first creation narrative in Genesis, we read, "God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Genesis 1). God's intent, actualized in creation, was that it would be good.

-Tyler VanderWeele, *Theology of Health*

**Flourishing Together Launch Weekend**

**Six Domains of Human Flourishing**

- Happiness and Life Satisfaction
- Mental and Physical Health
- Meaning and Purpose
- Character and Virtue
- Close Social Relationships
- Material and Financial Stability

Theme for Winter 2025: *Happiness Is . . .*

SERMON: *Don't Worry, Be Happy!*  
Text: Psalm 68:3-6

*Don't Worry, Be Happy* - Bobby McFerrin - Billboard #1 1988

Happiness vs. Joy --- in our common vernacular, most people distinguish between the two. Happiness is usually connected to circumstances and joy is often portrayed as a deeper reality that can be experienced regardless of circumstances.

TEXTUAL REALITY: The Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament contain a wide range of terms that are translated as: joy, rejoice, gladness, cheer, laughter, happy, blessed, exultation, merriment, pleasure, enjoy, and delight. This is how *semantic domains* work.

In the Bible, happiness is serious business!

Ecclesiastes 9:7

(NIV) Go, eat your food with *gladness*, and drink your wine with a *joyful* heart . . .

(NASB) Eat your bread in *happiness* and drink your wine with a *cheerful* heart . . .

(KJV) Eat thy bread with *joy*, and drink thy wine with a *merry* heart . . .

(NLT) Eat your food with *joy* and drink your wine with a *happy* heart . . .

Psalm 68:3

(NIV) But may the righteous *be glad and rejoice* before God; may they be *happy and joyful*.

(NASB) But the righteous will be *joyful*; they will *rejoice* before God; Yes, they will *rejoice* with *gladness*.

(KJV) But let the righteous *be glad*; let them *rejoice* before God: Yea, let them *exceedingly rejoice*.

(NLT) But let the godly *rejoice*. Let them *be glad* in God's presence. Let them be *filled with joy*.

The wellspring of human happiness is God Himself! Within His eternal holiness and purity, God is happy and joyful.

1 Timothy 1:11

... the gospel concerning the glory of the *blessed* God, which he entrusted to me.

1 Timothy 6:15

God, the *blessed* and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Isaiah 65:17-19

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

*I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people;*

The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

Jesus was happy and joyful!

Luke 7:33-34

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, "He has a demon." The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

**Neither joy nor happiness are portrayed in the Bible as glib, surface realities. Happiness and joy are both exhibited in the lives of faithful people who serve God with humility, faithfulness, and obedience regardless of the situation. (For example, Paul and Silas in jail)**

**According to the Bible, joy and happiness are deeply connected to righteousness, obedience to God's Word, godliness, living according to God's purposes, aligning one's life with God's will, exercising faith in God, and rejoicing in both the presence and goodness of God.**

**"The end of life is not to be happy, nor to achieve pleasure and avoid pain, but to do the will of God, come what may."**

**— Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**"Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others."**

**— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**THIS WEEK: Read and meditate on Philippians 4:4-9. Put it into practice. *Don't worry, be happy!***

**GLIMPSE AHEAD: The Beatitudes!**