

The Capstone of God's Perfections

Did you know that God is happy? It may sound strange to hear at first. We tend to associate happiness with people who are naive. Sometimes we criticize happiness mistakenly. What we really mean to criticize is unreality. We want to pop the starry-eyed bubble that forms around unrealistic expectations about life. Sometimes we are jealous of happiness. Whenever someone is truly happy it unveils a deficit in our own soul. That light that shines from their soul exposes our own darkness. Their happiness forces us to face as in a mirror the ugliness of our own resentments. Sometimes we mistakenly believe that happiness is somehow selfish or sinful. That to be a true Christian is to always be wrapped up in how horribly sinful you are. This sort of Christian refuses to receive from the well-spring of God's grace the supply He so eagerly longs to give. Are there trials? Without a doubt. But, is there joy in the Christian life? Absolutely. So, we must understand that our own sinful opinions about happiness may prevent us from accepting the invaluable truth. God is happy.

Now, we find this truth displayed in two places in the New Testament. Both of them are in the First Epistle to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:11, 6:15). The word that Paul uses is "blessed". God is blessed. That is to say that He is infinitely perfect and delights in His perfections. Maybe it would be helpful to imagine for a moment the Pyramids of Egypt. Many perfectly laid stones rise inevitably to the capstone. It has been said that the capstone is covered in gold-leafing so as to reflect the light of the sun. These capstones would have shone brilliantly across miles of desert in all directions. Egyptians for generations would have looked with delight at the symbol of the Kingdom's perfections. In the same way God delights in Himself eternally. His blessedness is the capstone of all His attributes. As He looks upon his own attributes throughout eternity he does so in infinite bliss. God is Happy. And, not only is He happy, but He is supremely, surpassingly happy.

What this teaches us is very plain and simple. If we want to be happy, then we must look to the sole source of happiness. The Psalmist teaches us that we do this by meditation on God's Word. For it is in His word that He reveals both Himself and His commandments. If we want to be happy we must be a people of one book. We must read it, meditate on it, pray through it, engage it, apply it, and tell others about its truths.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners,
nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his
leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." -Psalm 1

May He fill you with His Joy this Christmas,
Tom