

The Happiness of God

Scripture: Psalm 36:5-10

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"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased"—C.S. Lewis

Read Psalm 36:7-8

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." (Psalm 42:1-2)

Hebrews 11:25-26, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt for he looked to the reward."

"who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44)

5 Thesis of Christian Hedonism:

1. The longing to be happy is a universal human experience, and it is good, not sinful.
2. We should never try to deny or resist our longing to be happy, as though it were a bad impulse. Instead, we should seek to intensify this longing and nourish it with whatever will provide the deepest and most enduring satisfaction.
3. The deepest and most enduring happiness is found only in God. Not from God, but in God.
4. The happiness we find in God reaches its consummation when it is shared with others in the manifold ways of love.

5. To the extent that we try to abandon the pursuit of our own pleasure, we fail to honor God and love people. Or, to put it positively: The pursuit of pleasure is a necessary part of all worship and virtue. That is: The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

"it is a Christian's duty, as you know, for everyone to be as happy as he can." — C.S. Lewis

"God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there." —C.S. Lewis

"were I to say why have you become Christians? Every man will truly answer, for the sake of happiness." —Augustine

Why Is God So Happy?

A.) God is Happy Because He Delights in Himself

Matthew 3:17, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Isaiah 42:1, *"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights."*

Ephesians 3:15, "...from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"

"God is upper most in his own affections. God would be unrighteous as we would if he valued anything more than what is otherwise supreme value." — John Piper

"God is the one being in all the universe for whom seeking his own praise is ultimately a loving act. When he does all things for the praise of His glory, he preserves for us and offers to us the only thing in the world that can satisfy our longings. God is for us, and the foundation of love is that God has been and is now and always will be for himself." —John Piper

B.) God is Happy Because He Delights in His Works

Psalm 115:3, "our God is in the Heavens and he does whatever he pleases,"

Daniel 4:35, "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Isaiah 53:4, 10, "Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted....yet it pleased the Lord the bruise him, he has put him to grief."