

## **“GET HAPPY NOW!”**

David Halbrook

“31 Sneaky Mood Busters: A whole month's worth of diet, fitness and mental tricks that help you get happy now!” (health.msn.com 11-24-09). This sounds great, right? But, will 3-5 servings of vegetables a day make you happy when your child suffers from cancer or your spouse is unfaithful? Would exercise and “new age” positive-thinking free the guilty Jews of sin (Acts 2:37)?

About 3,000 years ago Solomon wrote about earthly happiness (Ecclesiastes). His writings added something that man's 31 tips to happiness misses---God. The happiest life possible only comes by serving God-- *that is the purpose of life* (Ecclesiastes 12:13). You cannot spend your life serving man first, *including yourself*, and have true happiness.

God designed and provided for earthly and eternal happiness. You may have it! First, cleanse your soul from sin by the blood of Jesus the Christ (Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16). Then with a renewed mind you may “rejoice always” (Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:4-6).

-- *To read more on this subject, visit our website WWW.QVCOC.COM, click on the words “Topics For Study,” and read the article “Do You Want To Be Happy?”*

-- *Editor's Note: Are you staying busy trying to teach the lost, with the fair booth or SBS now past? Clipping and handing our articles in the Arkansas Weekly is one way that you can avoid lagging in diligence* (Rom. 12:11).

Church of Christ—Quail Valley  
4104 E. Harrison St.  
Batesville, AR 72501  
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelists:  
David Halbrook 569-4491  
Lenoard Westbrook 612-8409

# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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## ***THE MAN YOU WANT YOUR DAUGHTER TO MARRY***

Steven Deaton (Hebron Herald, July 2011 [www.hebronchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hebronchurchofchrist.com))

Fathers have a lot on their shoulders. They are charged with providing for their family, something which is harder as the economy goes down (1 Tim. 5:8). They are to raise their children in the Lord, which is no small feat in this wicked world (Eph. 6:4). A man must be willing to sacrifice and put his family above himself; thinking about their well being.

As a man raises a daughter, he is concerned with many things in her life. The most important thing is whether or not she is a Christian. He must teach her the Scripture from childhood (2 Tim. 3:15). His overall example must be one of a dedicated child of God to reinforce the teaching.

Additionally, a father must be a good husband. He needs to be the man he wants his daughter to marry. The example he sets in his home, the behavior his daughter witnesses day to day, will be the pattern impressed on her mind of what a husband ought to be. At the very least, she will see he daddy and his life as what is acceptable in a man. She will view potential husbands with this frame of reference because that is what she knows.

Therefore, men, love your wives as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25). Willingly sacrifice for your wife. Nourish and cherish her (Eph. 5:29). Hold her in honor, dwelling with her with understanding (1 Pet. 3:7).

If your daughter were to go out today and marry a man that is just like you what would she get? Would she be ignored or belittled? Would she get a selfish man that is overbearing and hateful? Would her husband yell at her and lose his temper over the slightest issue? Or, would she be happily married to a man who respects her, protects her, and is lovingly devoted to her well being?

Fathers, be the man you want your daughter to marry, because she probably will.

## ***“THE CUP” OF THE LORD’S SUPPER***

*David Halbrook*

Here’s a question, and my reply, from the fair booth a few weeks ago.

“What does the Bible say specifically about the Lord’s Supper? I heard a pastor for the last three weeks talking about the “cup” being the covenant of the New Testament Church. Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25. Is the cup to be taken literally?”

**What is symbolized by “the cup”?** When Jesus took the cup and said to drink from it—did He attach any meaning to the container? In Matthew 26:28, Jesus said *This is my blood of the new covenant*. What represented His blood—the container or the liquid in the container? It is easy to see how the grape juice (“fruit of the vine”) is a perfect symbol of Jesus’ blood. But how does the container represent Jesus’ blood? It doesn’t. And, in case we might think that the container represents Jesus’ body (as his body was the “container” for His blood), we see that in verse 26, Jesus said that the bread represents His body. So the bread represents Jesus’ body, and the juice represents His blood. Jesus says nothing about the symbolism of the actual container.

The body and blood of Jesus fully represent His death (1 Cor. 11:26), and the purpose of the Lord’s Supper is to remember His death (1 Cor. 11:24-25). This requires bread and the fruit of the vine—and of minor importance is the container of the liquid. (Some people have emphasized that only one container may be used when drinking the fruit of the vine, claiming that it represents the unity of the saints. But, this is a meaning which God did not reveal. It’s a nice thought—but God did not symbolize unity by a single container. Unity exists because all saints eat and drink the same elements for the same purposes. Unity is present by what we do, not by any symbol in the Lord’s Supper. You might or might not have heard of this teaching).

**Regarding the cup and the covenant** Jesus’ death (body and blood) is the key element of the new covenant. There is background for this in the Old Testament, taught in Hebrews 9:17-18, *For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood*. The covenant between God and Israel was dedicated with (animal) blood. The new covenant, between God and those He saves through Jesus Christ, was dedicated by Jesus’ “blood of the new covenant.” No container has ever been the sign, seal, or symbol of a God-given covenant, to my knowledge.

Obviously, I did not hear all that the pastor presented. From what you have told me, it seems that the mistake of the pastor you heard, is that he is making TWO symbols where Jesus only made ONE symbol. The pastor is making the container to be a

symbol and the liquid to be another symbol. Jesus used the container and the liquid interchangeably, to remind all who drink to remember the blood of the new covenant, which saved sinners thus purchasing the church (Acts 20:28).

**Conclusion** The Lord’s Supper is a simple memorial. Two basic physical elements (bread and fruit of the vine) representing two basic elements of physical life (body and blood). On the Lord’s Day, a memorial of Jesus’ resurrection, the Lord’s Supper is a memorial of Jesus’ death. Let nothing corrupt the simplicity that is in Christ.

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## ***BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN***

*Clarence Johnson*

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). Happy mourners? Blessed mourners? How can this be?

In contrast, Paul spoke of some who are "past feeling," (Ephesians 4:19), whose conscience has become seared with a hot iron, 1 Timothy 4:2. Surely we can see that these people, who have run rough-shod over their consciences until they have no conscience left are not the truly happy people. Surely the person who can still mourn have more to be happy about than those who are past feeling.

Jesus, of course, did not mean to imply that everyone who mourns, regardless of his reason, will be comforted. In this world there are numerous deliberate pessimists. They search for misery and despair. They look for trouble night and day. They know comfort, primarily because they refuse to be comforted. Jesus was not describing such folks as happy or blessed. These are not the mourners He had in mind.

Others mourn over some selfish loss or ambition--over not being able to take unfair advantage over someone else. Jesus was not referring to such when He promised comfort to mourners. Some mourn because they have been taken victim of their own sin. Jails and penitentiaries are full of folks who mourn because they were caught breaking the law--but they have not yet learned to hate sin. Their mourning is not over the fact that they did wrong, but over the fact that they have been caught and punished. Hell will be full of mourners who will know no comfort whatsoever. It was not these of whom Jesus spoke when He promised comfort to those who mourn.

Who, then, are those whose mourning ends in comfort? The promise is fulfilled in the case of every mourner whose mourning leads him to Jesus Christ. Mourning over your sins, over the fact that you have grieved God and set the wrong example for others, is the mourning that leads to true repentance--a change of heart that will result in a change of lifestyle. This mourning truly has the potential to bring comfort, now and eternally. (Meandering Through Matthew, from <http://susquehannachurchofchrist.org/>)