

Words of Truth & Reason

AUGUST 2011 – VOL. I, NO. 8
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

GET HAPPY NOW?

More than having a nice car, large house, or cushy bank account---we all want to be happy. Life can seem like one long experiment in search of happiness. Man offers his suggestions, but if we listen to God, the answers are available NOW!!

“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 have freed 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).

Inside This Issue:

- **Get Happy Now?**
- **Who Is The Rock of the Church?**
- **Would Jesus “Rock This House” For \$10 Per Head?**

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WHO IS THE ROCK OF THE CHURCH?

In Matthew 16:16 Peter said to Jesus, *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*. Jesus agreed and said, *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church* (Matthew 16:18). What, or who, is “this rock” upon which “My church” (the saved) is built?

Are the saved built upon a man who rebuked and denied Jesus (Matthew 16:22; 26:74), was at times a hypocrite (Galatians 2:11-13), and died and is not risen (Jn. 21:19)? Peter later repented but was never qualified to be the rock upon which the church was built.

Are the saved built upon the fact that Jesus is the Christ—the King of centuries of prophecy? Are men saved because Jesus was God’s Son in the flesh, the One who died but lives (1 Timothy 3:16; Romans 8:34)? Yes! Peter confessed and Jesus confirmed this. These facts are the foundation of salvation-- Jesus is the rock of His church.

The Catholic Church twists this text by identifying Peter and all “popes” as the church’s earthly leader. Jesus is the only head of the church of Christ. We invite responses from those who believe otherwise.

WOULD JESUS “ROCK THIS HOUSE” FOR \$10 PER HEAD?

Do you remember the Sermon on the Mount? How much did Jesus charge those who assembled to listen? Nothing!

Do you remember Acts 2? How much did the apostles charge the Jews who assembled? Nothing!

Jesus Christ is our perfect example. On their website, the Ash Flat Church of Christ states that they seek to follow “the examples that He set while He was on this earth” (www.ashflatcofc.org). These are wonderful words, but their “Rock This House” weekend contradicts their claim.

If they follow Jesus’ example, why do they charge admission fees to their event, sell t-shirts, and organize a 5K race? Did Jesus charge admission fees or sell commemorative robes after His sermon? Which church of Christ in Scripture offered a God-filled weekend paid for by a 5K race? Sports were extremely popular during the days of Jesus (the Olympics started 700 years before Jesus was born!). He could have attracted a large audience by organizing a chariot race to support His earthly ministry. But this was not the example that He set for us.

Have we forgotten Jesus’ words at the Temple in Jerusalem? *Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!* (John 2:16). Jesus was angry with what men were doing in association with the Temple worship. Would Jesus have reacted any differently if there had been a t-shirt vendor in the Temple?

His words “rocked that house” and should do the same today, especially among churches of Christ who abuse God’s words and funds with merchandise by building gyms, selling t-shirts, and charging admission fees for spiritual services they offer! God equipped the church with spiritual teachers—not race organizers and clothing vendors (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:15).

Though good intentions exist in Ash Flat, an ancient problem remains--*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... because you have forgotten the law of your God...*” (Hosea 4:6). We plead for you to search the Scriptures to find out if the things you see and hear in area churches today (including us) match what you can read in Scripture!

*I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God...
(1 Timothy 3:15)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

Please notice the enclosed invitation to our gospel meeting.
If you need a ride, please contact us.

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. What was missing from the list of 31 happiness-tips, that is essential to earthly and eternal happiness?
2. Why is Jesus uniquely qualified to be the rock of the church (the saved)?
3. What made Jesus upset when He went to the Temple, in John 2:16?
4. How did churches have money to do their work, if they did not sell things or charge admission fees to their assemblies or events? (HINT: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

* OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* Do you have other Bible questions we can help you with? Write or call us (870 793-6700; 569-4491)

* Visit our NEW WEBSITE WWW.QVCOC.COM to read the full article on happiness. At our website, click on “Topics For Study” or contact us and we’ll mail you a copy.