

Of Success And Happiness

Psalm 1

1. Intro

1. Is there anyone here who does not want to be happy or successful?
 1. Happiness = contentment or joy.
 2. What constitutes happiness/success? Is it money, --> possessions, --> prestige, --> power?

2. Thesis

1. Success and happiness come from knowing God, His will and His truths.

Transition: The first characteristic of a successful and happy person is:

2. They Do Not Follow The Crowd

1. They don't listen to what the crowd says.
 1. (v. 1) Oh the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked..
 2. Unhappy in marriage --- get a divorce
 3. Unwanted pregnancy --- get an abortion
 4. Facing temptation – do what you want, just don't get caught.
 5. Discontent with wages/business – cheat your boss/people (Vegas – Avis car rental)
2. They don't do what the crowd does.
 1. (v. 1)...or stand around with sinners...
 2. The successful person takes the right path, not the easy path.
 1. Just because “everyone” is doing it doesn't make it right.
3. They don't go where the crowd goes.
 1. (v. 1)...or join in with the mockers.
 2. Tell people what they need to hear, not what they want.
 1. Much of our information is not truthful.

Transition: The second characteristic of a successful and happy person is:

3. They Have A One-track Mind

1. (v. 2)...but they delight in the law (instructions) of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. (cf Joshua 1:8)
2. Be committed to learning, and knowing, and applying the principles of scripture to our lives. (Phil 4:8)
 1. Do we know what we believe and why?
3. They know the difference between right and wrong
 1. Doing right will give peace and contentment in the long run.

Transition: The third characteristic of a successful and happy person is:

4. They Have A Weather-Resistant Faith

1. (v. 3) They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. (cf Jer 17:8)

2. There is a source of spiritual refreshment.
3. Prosper – produce lasting results.
4. The Bible doesn't promise a soft and easy life.
 1. We must face the wind and rain, there will be days of drought when we must endure the heat; there will be long, lonely winters that are cold and bitter.
5. There are some Christians who believe that if you have faith, you won't have any serious problems.
 1. The Bible doesn't teach that faith prevents bad weather; it teaches that faith protects you during bad weather.

5. The Unrighteous

1. All the money, power, prestige will not bring them happiness.
 1. It is a temporary fix. (Tamara clip)
2. They will stand before God in judgment
 1. A saying: “What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.”
 1. Billboard: What happens in Vegas, God knows.

6. CONCLUSION

1. Psalm 1 offers a perspective on success and happiness different than we may be used to.
 1. Success and Happiness Is Knowing God's Will and Doing It.
 1. That means being tuned into Him by His Word and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.
2. It comes to this:
 1. Successful person is influenced by the Word, not by the world.
 2. They don't follow the crowd, they don't give up easily, and their faith is rock-solid.
3. Through God's grace, we all enjoy this kind of success and happiness.