



Life, Liberty,

and the Pursuit of

Happiness

GOD'S WAY

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This phrase from the Declaration of Independence is worth pondering. What does real life, real freedom, and real happiness look like? Do you have them? God reveals the truth about life, liberty, and happiness in the Bible. Let's think about each of them in turn.

Life ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

George Washington has a monument. John F. Kennedy has an eternal flame. Although the memory of these two presidents lives on, the men themselves are gone. Every hero of the past has died, and so will you and I.

Jesus offers eternal life in Heaven to those who love and obey Him. The Bible says, "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11, 12). Believing and obeying Jesus is the only way to have eternal life in Heaven. The alternative is clear: a never-ending death in Hell. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through Me” (John 14:6).

You don't have to wait until you die to have eternal life—you can begin living it today. Imagine this life as a tiny eternal flame burning in your heart. This eternal flame of spiritual life is lit in our hearts when we confess our sin and believe in Jesus as our Saviour. The change this brings in our life is so dramatic and complete that Jesus called it being “born again,” almost as if we become a new person (John 3:3). Choose life in Jesus today!

Liberty ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The CIA's motto is a quotation from Jesus: “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” The full quotation from the Bible is, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31, 32).

Many people who live in our free country are not truly free. They are slaves to masters such as money, sex, reputation, or drugs.

Jesus said, “Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34). Being a slave to sin brings a

paycheck you don't want: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

What is the alternative to being enslaved by sin and Satan? Jesus said of Himself, "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). As strange as it may seem, we find true freedom only when we love and obey God.

Choosing to live God's way is not slavery. Obeying God frees us from sin and death. Speaking to Christians about their previous sinful lives, the Bible says, "What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Romans 6:21, 22)

When we believe in Jesus, confessing and renouncing our sin, God's Holy Spirit brings true life and freedom. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17). You can be free from sin today!

Pursuit of Happiness ★ ★ ★ ★

Are you happy? Or are you restless and unsatisfied? The person who rejects God will never be truly peaceful and happy. “The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked’” (Isaiah 57:20, 21).

You cannot buy true happiness. You will find true happiness only when you have God’s blessing on your life.

Consider the people Jesus said will be blessed, or happy:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall

see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3-10).

Jesus' way isn't “the American way.” But it is God's way, and it is the only way that brings joy and peace.

Are you tired of looking for happiness and finding only emptiness and guilt? Confess that you have sinned. Believe in Jesus for salvation. Jesus invites you, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28, 29).

Trusting in Jesus brings real life, real liberty, and real happiness—today and for all eternity!

Copyright © 2014 Christian Light Publications, Inc., Harrisonburg, VA.
All rights reserved. Scripture taken from the New King James Version.
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. Cover image: Thinkstock

Christian Light Publications Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone (540) 434-0768 www.clp.org Printed in U.S.A.