



The Everlasting Nation

Ministry Update

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January first brings with it a very common expression: “Happy New Year.” But how can we have one? How can we be happy, especially when life can be so sad? *I have forgotten happiness* (Lam. 3:17 NASB 1995). What does that mean? It means I know how to have happiness, but I have forgotten what I know. What must we always remember about happiness when life is sad?

But happy is he who is gracious to the poor (Prov. 14:21).

Bernard Rimland, director of the Institute for Child Behavior Research, said, “The happiest people are those who help others.” A study was conducted in which each participant was asked to list 10 people they knew best and label them as happy or not. Then they were to go through the list again and label each one as selfish or unselfish, using the following definition of selfishness: a stable tendency to devote one’s time and resources to one’s own interests and welfare—an unwillingness to inconvenience oneself for others.

Remember to be generous in 2026, and you will be happy!

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law (Prov. 29:18).

Remember to keep God’s laws and commandments in 2026, and you will be happy! We should never look at God’s law as something that keeps us from happiness but protects us from unhappiness.

Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproveth, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty (Job 5:17).

Remember to be happy when God disciplines us, because it reminds us of this very truth.

For those whom the Lord loves he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (Heb. 12:6-7).

Sorrow is better than laughter, for when a face is sad a heart may be happy (Eccles. 7:3).

Remember in 2026 to be happy when sorrow enters your life because it is a reminder that seriousness accomplishes more than silliness. The seriousness of sorrow teaches us and reminds us what is most important. *And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I*

consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom. 8:17-18), Paul wrote.

This reminds me of a poem:

I walked a mile with Pleasure;
She chattered all the way;
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow;
And not a word said she;
But oh, the things I learned from her,
When Sorrow walked with me!

-Robert Browning Hamilton

Every one of these passages brings happiness alongside things that make us unhappy: to see a poor person should make us unhappy, to give to them makes us both happy. Obedience to the law will keep us from the desires of the flesh, but obedience is where happiness is found. When God's disciplinary hand is heavy upon us, just like David, who was physically ill due to his unconfessed sin, it reminds us we are His children. A little taste of sorrow will make all of us a little more serious.

Never forget this about both: *In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider—God has made the one as well as the other so that man will not discover anything that will be after him (Eccles. 7:14).*

Be happy that God is in complete control! It is He who balances our lives by giving us enough blessings to keep us happy and enough burdens to keep us humble!

Because of Him,

Michael Campo Jr.

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