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Happiness And Contentment by Mark Legendre

Are you a happy person? Are you content? If you are a Christian, then you should be both. Psalms 144:15 says "Happy is that people . . . whose God is the Lord." In Paul's letter to the Philippians he said in Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice." In 1st Timothy 6:6 Paul says "But godliness with contentment is great gain." And then he says in verse 8 of this same chapter "And having food and raiment let us therewith be content." These things must be possible or Paul would not have told us to rejoice and be content. The secret to "happiness and contentment" is not found in the accumulation of earthly treasures, but in having a relationship with God. This is why it was possible for the Apostles to rejoice when they were "counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ" in Acts 5:40-42. This is how it was possible for Paul & Silas to "pray and sing praises" while in prison in Acts 16:23-25. Listen to what the Hebrew writer says in Hebrews 10:34 "... took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in Heaven a better and an enduring substance." It was not because of the outward circumstance in life that these Christians could rejoice and be content, but because of their relationship with Jesus Christ. Our lives may not be exactly as we would like them to be, but one day in Heaven we will be able to "rejoice forever more."

Understanding Commitment to God by Mark Legendre

Jesus was "fully committed to God." (Jn. 6:38; Jn. 8:29; 1 Pet. 2:21-25)

Paul was "fully committed to God." (2 Tim. 1:11-12; Acts 20:22-24; 2 Tim 4:6-8)

Why Commitment To God Is So Scary!

1. It requires that "sacrifices must be made." (Lk. 9:23; Lk. 14:26-33; Mk. 10:17-30)
2. It Requires that our "priorities must be right" as well (Mat. 6:33); Mt. 22:35-37)
3. It requires that we "must be willing to die for the cause of Christ" if need be. (Jn. 10:17-18; Acts 21:10-14; Rev. 2:10,13)

How Commitment To God Is Shown In the Lives Of Christians Today!

It is shown in "putting the things of God ahead of everything else in our lives." (Matt. 6:33)

It is shown in being "actively involved in the work of the local church that you are a member of." (Eph. 4:16)

And it is shown in "living righteous lives to the glory of God." (Mat. 5:14-16)