

## Positive Living in a Negative World (Be a happy and positive person, in a sad and negative world!)

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

**Rom. 8:28-39** all things work together for good, more than conquerors

- **Intro: we are living in a negative world — must overcome to be positive** - f/u, The Power of God's Word
  - **illus.:** **Unhappiness at Home and Work**, *London Daily Telegraph* (10-16-00)
  - **How do Christians overcome the negativity in the world to obey God? - Phil. 4:4**
- **Fact: Every Christian can be a happy and positive person** — glass half full person
  - **Phil. 4:4, 13** rejoice always, you can do all things — **God commanded it, therefore possible for all**
- - **illus.:** **Abraham's positive attitude**, before offering Isaac - **Heb. 11:19**
- 2 - **illus.:** **Daniel's friends' positive attitude**, statement to Neb. before cast in furnace - **Dan. 3:16-18**
  - **1 Cor. 10:13** God won't give you more than you can handle
- 3 - **Rom. 5:3-5; Ja. 1:2-4** even endure difficult times rejoicing - **positive attitude**
  - **illus.:** **Roe Rives, hospital Tue. night**, pain, suffering, What God has in mind for him, still positive
    - he prayed for us (Dennis, Jerry Flatt, me) and the church - 1<sup>st</sup> for me
- **Wealth doesn't make us happy and positive people** — must look elsewhere
- 2 - **illus.:** **Solomon** - 700 wives & 300 concubines, sex, marriage, riches, material possessions, fame, wisdom
  - **Ec. 12:13-14** What is important?
  - **illus.:** **Happiness Explained**, *U.S. News & World Report* (9-3-01) — **not \$**
  - **desire riches and love money = sadness / serve God and enjoy His blessings = happy and positive life**
    - **1 Tim. 6:9-10** desire rich, live money = sad person
    - **1 Tim. 6:17-19** serve God and enjoy blessings = happy and positive life
- **Entrust your life to God, you'll be a happy and positive person**
  - **2 Tim. 1:12** entrust your life to God
    - **illus.:** as our children entrust their lives with us - food, clothing, housing, protection, training, etc.
    - **illus.:** coming to terms with entrust kids with their grandparents
  - **1 Pet. 5:6-7** humble, cast care upon God — **be proactive not lazy, give it to God, trust God to work it out**
  - **Matt. 6:25-34** not worry — seek first. . . — **all these things will be added - doing things God's way**
- **Prayerfully stay focused on important things, you'll be a happy and positive person**
  - **saying: you are what you think you are — think it and become it**
    - **1 Cor. 15:33b** "Bad company corrupts good morals." — **evil people, evil thoughts, evil actions**
    - **illus.:** study, improve shooting free throws, some practiced and some visualize - visualization improved most
    - **illus.:** imagine who you want to be (become, change), pretend you are that person, soon will be
  - **Phil. 4:4-9** happy and positive, not anxious — **think it, live it**
- 2 - **Col. 3:1-2** keep mind in heaven, not on earth — **think it, live it**
  - **1 Th. 5:16-18, 21-22** pray, thanks, examine all things — **hold fast to good, abstain from evil**
- **It's possible because God is able** — **it's about God, not about you**
- 6 - **Rom. 4:21; 14:4; 2 Cor. 9:8; Heb. 2:18; Eph. 6:11, 16**

➤ **Summary / Inv.** — “**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!**”

- we live in a negative world, but God wants His children to live happy and positive lives

- entrust your life to God, cast cares on him, think the right things and do the right things - happy & positive life —

**Rom. 8:28, 37-39**

- **inv.: He Is Able To Deliver Thee (#279)** — **sin, trials, temptation, difficulties, tribulation**