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

➤ 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
   - 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 - 1st 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