



Oak Grove church of Christ  
 9203 Thixton Lane  
 Louisville, KY 40291

**Oak Grove  
 Church of Christ**

(502) 749-9209

**Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 AM  
 Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
 Evening Worship: 5:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

**Evangelist:**

Bruce J. Dehnt  
 Home Bible Studies Available  
 Upon Request

[oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org](http://oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org)

# OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

JULY 15, 2007

## Golden Rule

A fascinating study on the principle of the Golden Rule was conducted by Bernard Rimland, director of the Institute for Child Behavior Research. Rimland found that “The happiest people are those who help others.” Each person involved in the study was asked to list ten people he knew best and to label them as happy or not happy. 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 one’s self for others.” (Rimland, ‘The Altruism

Paradox,’ *Psychological Reports* 51 [1982]: 521) In categorizing the results, Rimland found that all of the people labeled happy were also labeled unselfish. He wrote that those “whose activities are devoted to bringing themselves happiness...are far less likely to be happy than those whose efforts are devoted to making others happy” Rimland concluded: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Ibid., p. 522).

Martin & Diedre Bobgan, *How To Counsel From Scripture*, Moody Press, 1985, p. 123

## The Pursuit of Happiness

*“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” (Ps. 16:11 NASU)*

There is a wonderful quote from Ben Franklin that always makes me laugh and smile. It goes, “The Declaration of Independence only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.”

I know that every time that I pursue happiness I end up feeling like a little boy chasing a butterfly without a net. No matter how quickly I run after it, or how quietly I creep up on it each time I am about to catch it I only end up watching it flutter away.

I have found, however, that when I stop chasing after happiness and just relax that something amazing happens. When I stop my pursuit and take a while to just breath deeply, smile, and thank God for this beautiful life I have been given, I find that this wonderful butterfly stops flying away and starts peacefully circling around me. When I then take my eyes off of it and begin to just choose and share love expecting nothing in return, I find that this beautiful butterfly joyously floats down and lands on my head.

Maybe we all need to stop pursuing happiness so hard and start just living it instead. God loves each of us and God wants each of us to be happy. We don’t have to chase endlessly after it. We just have to choose it and share it all though the day, everyday of our lives. When we are thankful to God for this life we have been given we will have peace. When we love God, ourselves, and others we will have joy. When we live the way that we were meant to live we will have happiness. We all may have the right to pursue happiness, but it is best when we just give up the chase and go through our lives with love in our hearts, joy in our souls, a smile on our faces, and a butterfly on top of our heads.

Joseph J. Mazzella

# I Wish You Enough

Speaker Bob Perks was at an airport when he 'overheard a father and daughter in their last moments together. They had announced her departure and standing near the security gate, they hugged and he said, "I love you. I wish you enough." She in turn said, "Daddy, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Daddy."

They kissed and she left. He walked over toward the window where I was seated. Standing there I could see he wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on his privacy, but he welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say goodbye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," I replied. Saying that brought back memories I had of expressing my love and appreciation for all my Dad had done for me. Recognizing that his days were limited, I took the time to tell him face to face how much he meant to me.

So I knew what this man experiencing. "Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever goodbye?" I asked.

"I am old and she lives much too far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is, the next trip back would be for my funeral," he said.

"When you were saying goodbye I heard you say, "I wish you enough." May I ask what that means?"

He began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." He paused for a moment and looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more. "When we said 'I wish you enough,' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them," he continued and then turning toward me he shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory.

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Goodbye."

He then began to sob and walked away. My friends, I wish you enough!"

- Unknown

## Where is Happiness?

In our age, as in every age, people are longing for happiness. Where is happiness?

NOT in unbelief -- Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: "I wish I had never been born."

NOT in pleasure -- Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure, if anyone did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

NOT in money -- Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying he said: "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

NOT in position and fame -- Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: "Youth is a mistake; manhood, a struggle; old age, a regret"

NOT in military glory -- Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept, because, he said, "There are no more worlds to conquer."

Where, then, is happiness found?

Happiness is related to the word "happening." Happiness is so often based upon OUTWARD things, what is "happening" in one's life – the influence of people, circumstances, and things. When we base our happiness on surrounding ourselves with the right people and ALL the right

circumstances, we are doomed for failure. People can fail us. Circumstances change ever so rapidly. Our search for "happiness" will put us on a roller-coaster ride of ups and downs that is unrelated to its TRUE counterpart: JOY.

JOY originates on the INSIDE and is NOT dependent upon people, places or things. Joy is one of the by-products of a right relationship to God and is characterized by INNER peace, contentment, and hope. It is NOT based on what is happening on the OUTSIDE, upon one's circumstances. In fact, THIS JOY is present even in the most difficult of circumstances.

JOY is based upon having a right relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. This desire for JOY (true happiness) is universal – it is something that ALL of us have in common. We were ALL created by God with this longing, and it is ONLY with God that this longing can be filled. We were created with a need for intimacy with God. And when one has the RIGHT relationship with Him, JOY is present.

A deep, abiding relationship with God – characterized by TRUE JOY -- has been made possible through Jesus Christ. Listen to Him: "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that MY JOY may remain in you, and that YOUR JOY may be full" (John 15:9-11).

Joy, therefore, is found in submitting to the will of the Father. It is God's will that we place our trust in Jesus, the Son of God (Acts 16:31 ), repent of our sins (Acts 17:30 -31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27).

Where is happiness? It is found in circumstances, people, places and things - AND - it is NO substitute for the REAL THING...

TRUE JOY is found in Christ ALONE!

God bless you!

- David A. Sargent

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **J.O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Greg Walker**

Opening Prayer: **David Shepherd**

Lord's Table: **Arvil Young  
Larry Runner  
Chuck Sharp  
Randall Alford**

Scripture Reading: **Brian Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Doug Smith**

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **J.O. Smith**

Song Leader: **Greg Walker**

Opening Prayer: **Mark Smith**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Arvil Young**

Closing Prayer: **Chris Runner**