

Being Happy

Read Psalm 128

Psalm 128:2 "...happy shalt thou be,
and it shall be well with thee." (KJV)

After I had completed writing several *Thoughts to Ponder* for 1991, I asked my sister, Elda, if she would design the cover for the booklet I plan to make of all the *Thoughts to Ponder* from 1991. After forming her idea, Elda took a picture of me. Not long ago she told me she had completed the sketch for the cover and wanted me to see it.

"Lela," she told me, "When I looked at your picture, I saw a happy person." Her words stuck with me and I've done some thinking about it. I do know I haven't always been a happy person. There have been tragedies in my life and I have gone through some deep, dark valleys. At times my heart has been filled with bitterness and resentment. But I think the happiness my sister saw reflected in my picture is true happiness that I have found, which only comes from God. Over the past few years, as I have drawn close to the Lord and done what He wanted me to do, I have discovered true happiness. When I decided to serve God with my whole being " body, soul, spirit, and strength " my heart was filled with a deep happiness, peace, and joy not found anywhere else.

As Melissa is finishing her last year of high school, she is making preparations for her life-long dream of becoming a doctor. She has applied to several colleges and is waiting to hear from them. One evening I talked to her about the decisions and choices she must make. I told her I was not going to lecture her nor preach at her. I told her I wanted her to remember that foremost it was important that she would do what God wanted her to do. For only true happiness and fulfillment of life come for doing God's will. It may not always be easy or free of pain, but it's the only way to live and be truly happy.



Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel. Psalms 128