

WHO'S ON FIRST?

QUICK THOUGHT FOR TODAY: as American Christianity seems to be growing more and more “me-centered”, let’s remember to ask ourselves the question, *“Who is on the throne of my life?”* The local Christian bookstore has an increasing number of titles that promise to help you find the best for you – a happy life, happy family, happy future. But does God really desire that we make happiness our primary pursuit?

TRULY, I like happiness as much as the next guy. Yes, God calls us to be a rejoicing people (Phil. 4:4), and He loves to bless us with good things (James 1:17). I believe He wants us to be happy, **by His definition** – but I fear that the idea of happiness being promoted in Christendom these days doesn’t always line up with His idea of what true happiness is.

GOD’S IDEA OF A HAPPY, fulfilled, fruitful life is a life where Jesus is firmly on the throne – *“that in all things He may have the preeminence”* (Colossians 1:18). And I fear that is what’s missing from so much of the contemporary writing and teaching on the subject – Jesus is just a part of the recipe, an important ingredient for you to be happy. That is fatally flawed thinking, because it leaves you & me in charge of our own lives. And **that’s** a recipe for disaster.

Paul put it this way: *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20)

If we want to guarantee the absolute best for our lives, we need only to **yield our lives unreservedly to the One who died for us**, who loves us more than we love ourselves, and who has promised to work all things together for our good if we love Him and follow His calling (Romans 8:28). After all, *“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you... You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”* (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

May the Lord bless you with an abundance of His joy, peace, and love today,

Pastor Matthew Casey