

Are You Happy?

"Happy is that people..... whose God is the Lord."
(Psalm 144:15)

I have always been thankful that my happiness in life has not been dependent upon the fruits of my ministry but in the faithfulness of my Master! The disciples came back from a trip of ministry excited about what they had accomplished, which is understandable, but Jesus said to them, "*Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*" (Luke 10:20).

Are you happy? Why? Are you unhappy? Why? I talk to people every day who claim to belong to the Lord but who are terribly unhappy. I want to ask them, "Are you sure you belong to the God the Psalmist was talking about in Psalm 144?"

And then, I meet people who appear to be happy. I have asked some of them, "Why are you so happy today?" Usually they answer something like this: "It is a beautiful day!" Or, in one case a man replied, when I asked him why he appeared so happy: "I just won \$50.00 in the lottery!"

Are you happy? Why? Moses, in addressing the congregation in Deuteronomy 33 gives several reasons why we have every right to be happy if we are the children of the Lord:

We should be happy because.....

- We are in His heart - the place of affection: Deut.33:3a - "*He loved the people.*" (Ephesians 5:25; Galatians 2:10)
- We are in His hand - the place of security: Deut 33:3b "*All His saints are in Thy hand.*" (John 10:28-29; Isa. 49:15:16)
- We are at His feet - the place of instruction: Deut. 33:3c "*They sat down at Thy feet.*" (Luke 10:38-42)
- We are by His side - the place of fellowship: Deut. 33:12a "*The beloved of the LORD shall dwell safely by Him.*" (Psalm 91:1)
- We are on His shoulders - the place of strength: Deut. 33:12b "*And he shall dwell between His shoulders.*" (Luke 15:5 - lost sheep)
- We are in His arms - the place of rest: Deut. 33:27 "*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*" (Isaiah 40:11)

If our happiness is in the fact that we belong to Him and He belongs to us, then even in the most dismal of times and circumstances, we can rejoice. Maybe today you are looking to the Lord from the valley, or maybe you are looking to Him from the mountaintop. either way, you *can* be happy if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Shepherd and are walking with Him!

JdonJ