

23. A portion of a population that is not taught or personally rejects the laws of divine establishment have no happiness. Those that do submit to those laws acquire neutral or establishment happiness.
24. Neutral happiness contributes to the stability of a client nation, but unless there is a consistent advance to the realm of perfect happiness by believers, the client nation is put in danger.

III. Perfect or Unalloyed Happiness

1. This is the ninth problem-solving device and it consists of the biblical attributes that culminate in the stability of a mature believer.
2. Jesus Christ executed the prototype system of spiritual advance to maturity. This unique system of problem-solving devices culminated in Him sharing the happiness of God.
3. The night prior to His execution, the Lord indicated that the device of unalloyed happiness was prominent in His ability to fulfill the Father's plan for salvation:

John 15:10 If you obey My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and remain in His love.

v. 11 I have told you these things so that My joy [χαρά (*chará*): unalloyed happiness] may be in you, and your joy may be complete. (NET)

4. The believer's source of acquiring and maintaining unalloyed happiness is consistent spiritual growth:

1 John 1:4 These things we write, so your joy [χαρά (*chará*): unalloyed happiness] may be made complete. (NASB)

5. In previous developments of unalloyed happiness we studied a passage in 1 Peter 1:7–8. Its development includes the process of enduring and overcoming testing for blessing by the use of problem-solving devices.

1 Peter 1:7 that the genuineness of your doctrinal inventory, being much more precious than gold, which is perishable, even though tested by fire for the purpose of approval, may be discovered to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

v. 8 and though you have never seen Him, you continue loving Him, with reference to Whom at the present time you continue not seeing Him, yet you keep on believing with sublime unalloyed happiness that is inexpressible and full of resplendent glory. (EXT)

6. When the believer advances to spiritual maturity he does so as a result of being tested for the purpose of approval. The development of a biblical inventory of ideas means a renovation of thought has occurred that pleases God.
7. It is not the believer that is praised but the doctrine in His soul. God has the truth and desires that His creatures acquire it and use it.
8. When this is accomplished, then He praises the effort that brought glory to Him and respect to His Word.
9. The believers in Asia Minor who made this advance had never seen the Lord but had come to see Him emerge in their mind's eye from their study of Scripture.
10. As the image of Jesus began to emanate from the Word, His glory began to be reflected in the face of these believers who possessed sublime unalloyed happiness in their souls.
11. Scripture informs us that happiness is built from strength accumulated from successfully using doctrine to endure testing for blessing. When we see doctrine work we are motivated to study even more resulting in momentum.

James 1:2 [Paragraph 1] My Jewish brethren, after weighing all the facts, you must consider [IM #1] it nothing but unalloyed happiness whenever you encounter various categories of pressure,

v. 3 knowing through the process of spiritual growth that the testing of your faith for the purpose of approval habitually produces stamina and endurance.

James 1:4 The stamina and endurance from the inner resource of doctrine must have [IM #2] its perfect production, so that you may choose to be spiritually mature and complete, deficient in the sphere of nothing while inside the bubble. (EXT)

12. This leads us to the conclusion that happiness is the ultimate problem-solving device as demonstrated by our Lord in:

Hebrews 12:2 Be concentrating on Jesus [His true humanity], the founder and perfecter of our faith [mystery doctrine of the Church Age], Who, because of His exhibited happiness [χαρά (*chará*): PSD #9] He endured the cross [staying power from the tandem PSDs of personal love for God & unconditional love for man], disregarding the shame [of being identified with our sins], and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [session]. (EXT)

13. Perseverance under pressure produces blessing from God which indicates His recognition of your loyalty to the Word of God:

James 5:11 We consider happy [μακαρίζω (*makarízō*)⁴] the ones having endured. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. (EXT)

14. Integrity, which is loyalty to doctrine in all circumstances, demands that the believer stand fast under pressure. Therefore loyalty to truth accrues happiness from the source of divine blessings:

1 Peter 3:13 Who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good?

v. 14 But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, blessed [plural of the noun μακάριος (*makários*): happinesses] are you. But do not be terrified of them or be shaken. (NASB)

(End JAS1-19. See JAS1-20 for continuation of study at p. 191.)

⁴ “Μακαρίζω: to consider someone especially favored, *happy*; “those who showed endurance (James 5:11)” (Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3d ed., rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker [Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000], 610).

15. Whether we define true happiness as perfect happiness, unalloyed happiness, or the copacetic spiritual life, the principle and concept of happiness may be summarized:
- (1) True happiness is related to the essence of God. The believer is happy with the Father's plan of antecedent grace, therefore grace is an expression of His perfect happiness.
 - (2) From this we may conclude that grace is the source of our perfect happiness.
 - (3) Happiness is related to the divine decree. In eternity past, God desired to share His happiness with man in time.
 - (4) This is only possible through entering God's plan and being sustained in that plan by application of His Word to the details of life.
 - (5) David often failed as a believer, but over time he grew strong in his faith. Regarding the former, he committed a horrible sin due to his rape of Uriah's wife, Bathsheba.
 - (6) His rebound prayer is documented in David's fifty-first Psalm whose superscript reads:

Psalm 51 Superscript For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- (7) In the third paragraph of this Psalm, it is clear that David wishes to recover from the sins which he confesses in verses 1–4:

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

v. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me [loss of enduement].

v. 12 Restore to me the joy [יְשׁוּעָה (sasón)] of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.