



Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

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WebPage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[How to Be Happy](#)” is the title of this month’s article. Happiness is really a goal of each individual (even spirit beings, although I am concerned with humans). The Greek philosopher Aristotle is reported to have said: **“Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.”** This statement is only partially true, because Aristotle was not informed by God’s revelation.

All human beings will be happy once they understand and later experience God’s salvation. You become happy by doing things. You cannot “be” happy unless those “things” involve people. As you will see in the article, there is a secure way to happiness, if God is the center of the meaning and purpose of your life.

God repeatedly encourages us with the fundamental principle of successful living: love God and love man as yourself. That is the summation of the Law of Moses (and Christ fulfilled all those requirements), yet love is still required for you to please God (Romans 13:8–10), for you to help others, and for you to be happy. That is what you are on earth to do. You cannot be happy without love. **“He that loves not knows not God; for God is love”** (1 John 4:8).

You were not put on earth to live for yourself in a corner somewhere waiting for the eschaton. You were created and chosen before the foundation of the world for a purpose — to learn to relate to and help others. This does not mean preaching or teaching. That is not for everyone. We each have our unique gifts in life. Use those gifts for the benefit of others. For example, anyone and everyone can do what is suggested in this psalm:

**“Happy is he who is acting intelligently toward the poor and needy; In a day of peril, YHWH shall provide his escape. YHWH, He shall guard him and preserve his life; He shall make him happy in the land, And He shall certainly not give him over to the soul’s desires of his enemies.”**

• *Psalm 41:1–2, Concordant Version*

We are to be active in life, which means being active with other people (Ecclesiastes 11:1). Do you want to have God obligated to you? Take note of this passage: **“He who is gracious to a poor man obligates YHWH, And He shall pay his requital to him”** (Proverbs 19:17, Concordant Version).

Are you a Christian who has stopped being active in life, stopped living, just waiting for the Kingdom of God? Trust God, His Kingdom will come. Trust God, you will be included. I know Christians who turn into inactive slugs once they become believers. I bet you know some also. They even seem to blame God, expressing the idea that “it’s God’s will that I am the way I am,” doing nothing. Can they expect rewards? Are such people capable of being happy, waiting for God to take them to paradise? Trust God, He will fulfill His promises, but He will not be pleased with those who do nothing.

**“With good will doing service [literally, “slaving”], as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, ...”**

• *Ephesians 6:7–8*

Such service, such slaving, requires involvement with other people.

**“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”**

• *1 John 3:18*

**“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.”**

• **2 Corinthians 5:10**

The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) is meaningful only if they are expressed to and for other people. Jesus gave an example on how we should deal with one common social occasion:

**“Then said he [Jesus] also to him that bade him [his host],**

**‘When you make a dinner or a supper, call not your friends, nor your brethren, neither your kinsmen, nor your rich neighbors; lest they also bid again, and a recompence be made you. But when you make a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And you shall be blessed [happy]; for they cannot recompense you: for you shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.’**

**And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, ‘Blessed [happy] is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.’”**

• **Luke 14:12–15**

## **Thank You**

The apostle Paul said that we are all to support the infirm, meaning the infirm in the faith. We at ASK are trying to do that by making available the best educational materials of biblical history and theology. Occasionally we are contacted by people who are stunned but pleasantly surprised at the depth and breadth of information on the ASK website. They are grateful to have found such a resource. May God lead them to become contributors to help others learn also.

Truly, God graced Dr. Martin with remarkable abilities to study and understand the Scriptures clearly, and to teach others what the Bible really says. I believe we are doing what the apostle Paul says we should be doing:

**“All I intimate to you, that, thus toiling, you must be supporting the infirm. Besides, remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘Happy is it to give rather than to get.’”**

• **Acts 20:35, Concordant Version**

There is nothing that prevents any of us from giving such support to the infirm in our personal sphere. The intent of Acts 20:35 is to give help on a one-to-one basis. **“You must be supporting the infirm.”** The intent of the giving, of course, is for you to give of yourself.

As discussed at the beginning of this Newsletter, giving of yourself requires involvement with other people. That means people other than your family and friends, people outside of your social station.

We want to thank all of you who give to ASK, particularly with your prayers to God on our behalf. Please continue to do this. Thank you also for your contributions that provide us with financial support. All of us possess a **“glorious liberty”** as children of God (Romans 8:21).

Paul also wrote, **“For freedom Christ frees us! Stand firm, then, and be not again enthralled with the yoke of slavery”** (Galatians 5:1, Concordant Literal Version). Freedom is not a possession intended for ourselves alone. Freedom must be exercised. Freedom must be expressed to other people. Reread or reconsider last month’s article by Dr. Martin **“Does Man Have a Free Will?”** By doing what God wants you to do now you are doing good works that will increase your reward in your judgment before God and Christ after your resurrection to salvation.

Your own happiness will increase as you help others in love.

David W. Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)