

GRANDFATHER'S HAPPINESS CHIP

By John F. Hall

In the second paragraph of the first article in the Declaration of Independence, you will find the phrase “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Our founding fathers looked at the pursuit of Happiness as a fundamental right. In Deuteronomy, Chapter 4, Verse 40, you will not find the word “Happiness.” But the clear message is this: “Keep His decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it might go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land your God has given you for all time.”



I came up with what I call, “The Happiness Chip.” It’s my belief that happiness is found in observing God’s rules, rather than in following our own rules. I break down the letters in the word “chip.” The first letter in the word chip is “C”. The “C” stands for Christ. If we accept Christ as the source of our strength, then the closer we are to Christ, then the greater will be our strength and our capacity for happiness. The second letter in the word chip stands for holiness. God gave us the Ten Commandments to guide us in a society that seeks self gratification and personal gain. This society denies the existence of sin, bans prayer in public schools, and prohibits the display of God’s commandments in the classroom. In the movie, “The Passion of the Christ,” the critics fail to focus on the reality that Christ took away the sins of the world by canceling them out by His ultimate sacrifice.

The “Passion” is about God’s love for us. For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to lay down His life for us. We can have holiness in our life by avoiding the occasions of sin found easily on the internet, in magazines, in movies, and in some people who tempt us to sin. The third letter in the word chip is “I.” The “I” stand for individual. True happiness is found in the realization that Christ is more than just our Savior. He is our best friend forever. Everything that we own, share, hold, and accomplish in this life is a gift from God. One of the greatest obstacles to our earthly happiness is ingratitude towards family, teachers, and others who have freely given of their time, talents, and treasures to help us achieve. Sometimes we create our own obstacles to happiness by living in the past, by keeping resentments, by seeking revenge, and by judging others with individual standards that lack forgiveness.

The fourth letter in the word chip is “P.” The “P” stands for prayer. Everyday of life is a gift from God. Being thankful to Christ, every morning, is a great way to start the day. Going to church on Sunday gives us the opportunity to thank Christ in a public way. Listening to Christ’s Words helps energize our soul. For Christ is more interested in the content of our soul, then He is in the color of our Sunday clothes. There is a pew, in a church, somewhere for you.

It’s a place to unwind and share our issues, problems, and things that depress and stress us. We can share them and take them to Christ in prayer. In the Army, we have a saying: “The maximum effective range of an excuse is zero meters.” It’s another way of saying that you have no honest excuse. I’ve heard the excuse that they don’t go to church,

because they don't get anything out of sitting in a pew and listening to a Pastor preach. If they don't bring their hope's, their concern's and their dreams to the Good Lord, they have no one to blame, for their unhappiness, than themselves. In Matthew, Chapter 18, Verse 20, are these words: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Christ goes to the church because two or three are gathered in His name.

I remember when I was 24 years old. In desperation I prayed a four word prayer: "Please God! Help me!" I did not know what I wanted God to do. But God knew exactly what I needed. At the end of our journey on this earth, we will be judged on the same stands that we judge others. If we don't show forgiveness, charity, kindness, cheerfulness, understanding, and compassion for others, how can we expect Christ to judge us any differently?

The "Happiness Chip" is something that everyone can create. It starts with Christ and it ends in prayer. It is something that belongs in our heart and not on our shoulder. For Christ ask that we only love Him. We can sometimes see Christ's love in the eyes of happy children. We can feel it in a warm hug or handshake of a friend. It is found in the knowledge that we are following Christ's command to love one another as He loved us. For Christ seeks our happiness, today, and for all eternity.

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