

SERMON: Delight Yourself in the Lord

TEXT: Psalm 37:4

DATE: December 2, 2018

Whatsoever we make necessary for our contentment, we make lord of our happiness. - Alexander MacLaran

Are there things in your life outside of the Lord that your happiness or contentment rest on? What are some steps to take that could direct your focus to finding joy and contentment in the Lord?

Sin has a way of not only taking our eyes off of the Lord, but it flatters us and creates a vicious cycle that is hard to break. Jonathan Edwards gives 8 examples of how sinners flatter themselves in his commentary on Psalm 36. He says:

1. *Some flatter themselves with a secret hope, that there is no such thing as another world....*

2. *Some flatter themselves that death is a great way off, and that they shall hereafter have much opportunity to seek salvation....*

3. *Some flatter themselves that they lead moral and orderly lives, and therefore think that they shall not be damned....*

4. *Some make the advantages under which they live an occasion of self-flattery. [He is referring to those living in a Christian country or raised in a Christian home, who think that they are thus right before God.]*

5. *Some flatter themselves with their own intentions [they intend to seek God later]....*

6. *There are some who flatter themselves, that they do, and have done, a great deal for their salvation....*

7. *Some hope by their strivings to obtain salvation of themselves....*

8. *Some sinners flatter themselves, that they are already converted [when they are not].*

In response to Edward's observations, Pastor Steven Cole says:
Since sin is so deceitful through its flattery, how can we know whether we are being deceived by it? Here are some questions to ask yourself:

Do I fear God, before whom all things are open and laid bare (Heb. 4:13)?

Since God knows the very thoughts and intentions of my heart, am I in the habit of judging my own sin quickly on the thought level?

When I read the holy standards of God's Word, do I apply them to my own heart, or do I just skim over them or apply them to others?

Am I growing to identify and hate my own sins more and more through God's Word?

Why are so many people who were raised in church turned off towards God?

Do we properly emphasize His abundant goodness and delightfulness in our homes and in the church?

When the Holy Spirit shows us God as He is we admire Him to the point of wonder and delight." - AW Tozer