



Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*If you lived on a farm, which chore above all others would you definitely NOT want to do?*

1. How has living in a culture where personal happiness is the ultimate purpose of life influenced what you believe God's ultimate desire/purpose is for you?
2. Read **1 Peter 1:14-16** (AMP). Pastor Tom said, "God is pro-happiness; but not at the expense of holiness." God embraces both, but we often see happiness and holiness at odds with one another. Why?
3. Our world equates happiness with pleasures to be pursued and unhappiness with difficulties to be avoided. What is the problem with this way of thinking and, to the extent you have believed it, how has it adversely affected your life? (See **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7**)
4. Keller wrote, "The sin that is most destructive in your life right now is the one you are most defensive about." Is there sin in you that you are/have been defending? Read **Psalms 51:1-2, 10, & 12** and then take a minute or two with God right now to confess, as David confessed, and find the happiness that comes with holiness.
5. Pastor Tom stated that "You can't self-help your way to happiness" because "God isn't my guide to happiness...He is my happiness..." Read **Psalms 16:1-2, 5, & 11**. If you have said your "YES!" to Jesus, share how God has become your happiness.

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*Day One:* Matthew 23; Psalm 112

*Day Two:* Leviticus 22; Proverbs 19

*Day Three:* 2 Corinthians 2; 1 Kings 8

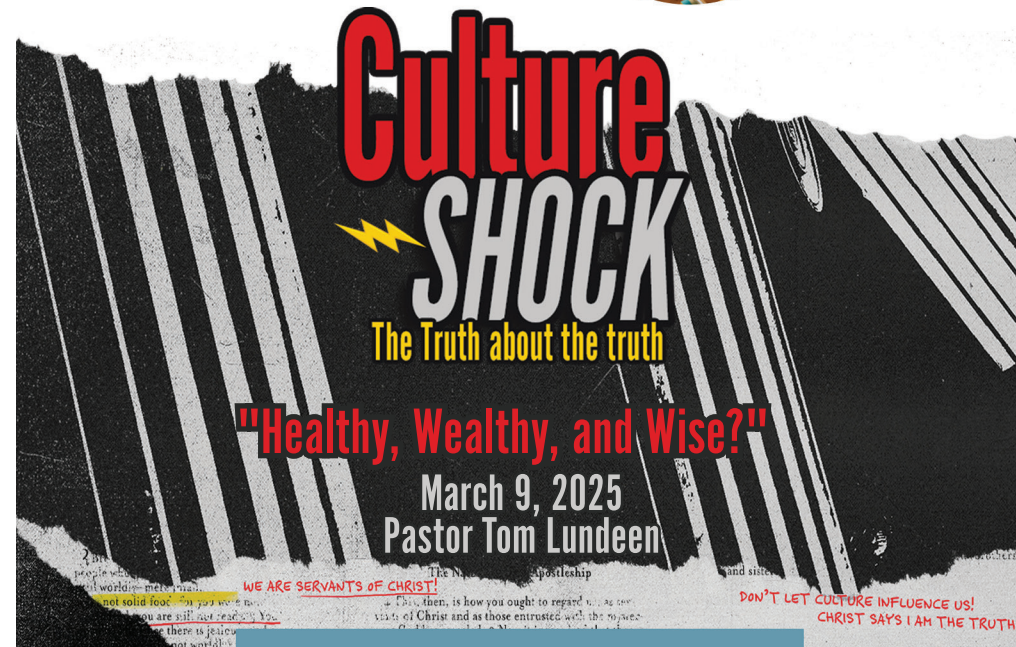
*Day Four:* Revelation 4; Jeremiah 46

*Day Five:* Ecclesiastes 8; Acts 28

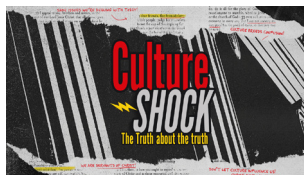
*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



**MYRC.CHURCH**



## MESSAGE NOTES

# "Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise?"

March 9, 2025  
Pastor Tom Lundeen

...we're exploring a \_\_\_\_\_ reality that is part of our cultural landscape, that is there are many beliefs that sound like they could be true, but they're not true.

And these *nearly true* \_\_\_\_\_ are embraced by all types of people, including Jesus' followers at times.

God's \_\_\_\_\_ for my life is to be healthy, wealthy, and wise...

...when people \_\_\_\_\_ this line of thinking and discover it's not true...

...this leads to more people abandoning \_\_\_\_\_ and walking away from God than just about any other truth.

## 1. Is My Happiness God's Highest \_\_\_\_\_ for Me?

If I believe that my happiness is God's highest purpose for my life, it changes my \_\_\_\_\_ of God and my relationship with God.

We start to see God as the \_\_\_\_\_ vending machine...

Fact is = God is real and is good and does care and \_\_\_\_\_ in your happiness.

...but that isn't His \_\_\_\_\_ purpose for our lives.

## 2. God is Pro-Happiness; But Not at the Expense of \_\_\_\_\_ (note **1 Peter 1:14-16**)

Be holy (hagios = set apart/\_\_\_\_\_ to God and His purposes).

2 cultural falsehoods:

- Whatever makes me \_\_\_\_\_ must be right.
- Whatever make me \_\_\_\_\_ must be wrong.

But what brings us \_\_\_\_\_ isn't always good for us.  
And what's \_\_\_\_\_ isn't always bad for us.

And often God \_\_\_\_\_ in using difficult/challenging things to teach us, to mold us into Jesus' image and build our trust in Him (note **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7**).

And the problem that gets even worse when we prioritize happiness over holiness is that it becomes easier to \_\_\_\_\_ sin  
"when our mind makes an excuse for what our \_\_\_\_\_ knows is wrong." (Groeschel)

*The sin that is most destructive in your life right now is the one you are most \_\_\_\_\_ about.* (Keller)

Holiness and happiness are not \_\_\_\_\_ values.

Note **Psalms 5:1-2, 10, 12**

## 3. Genuine Happiness Is Found in a \_\_\_\_\_ Not a \_\_\_\_\_ (note **Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 11**)

You can't \_\_\_\_\_ your way to happiness...

God isn't my \_\_\_\_\_ to happiness...

...He is my happiness and source of joy despite whatever circumstances I'm \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***The Truth about the truth:***

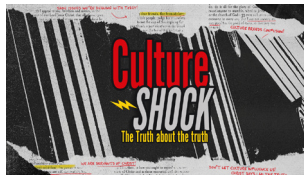
- So where are you pursuing happiness instead of holiness?

***Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!***

**App:** Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT



**SMALL GROUP**  
guide on the back



## MESSAGE NOTES

# "Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise?"

March 9, 2025  
Pastor Tom Lundeen

...we're exploring a huge reality that is part of our cultural landscape, that is there are many beliefs that sound like they could be true, but they're not true.

And these nearly true beliefs are embraced by all types of people, including Jesus' followers at times.

God's plan for my life is to be healthy, wealthy, and wise...  
...when people embrace this line of thinking and discover it's not true...  
...this leads to more people abandoning faith and walking away from God than just about any other truth.

## 1. Is My Happiness God's Highest Purpose for Me?

If I believe that my happiness is God's highest purpose for my life, it changes my view of God and my relationship with God.  
We start to see God as the ultimate vending machine...

Fact is = God is real and is good and does care and delights in your happiness.  
...but that isn't His highest purpose for our lives.

## 2. God is Pro-Happiness; But Not at the Expense of Holiness (note **1 Peter 1:14-16**)

Be holy (hagios = set apart/dedicated to God and His purposes).  
2 cultural falsehoods:

- Whatever makes me happy must be right.
- Whatever makes me unhappy must be wrong.

But what brings us pleasure isn't always good for us.  
And what's difficult isn't always bad for us.

And often God specializes in using difficult/challenging things to teach us, to mold us into Jesus' image and build our trust in Him (note **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7**).

And the problem that gets even worse when we prioritize happiness over holiness is that it becomes easier to rationalize sin "when our mind makes an excuse for what our spirit knows is wrong." (Groeschel)

*The sin that is most destructive in your life right now is the one you are most defensive about.* (Keller)  
Holiness and happiness are not opposing values.  
Note **Psalm 5:1-2, 10, 12**

## 3. Genuine Happiness Is Found in a Who Not a What (note **Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 11**)

You can't self-help your way to happiness...  
God isn't my guide to happiness...  
...He is my happiness and source of joy despite whatever circumstances I'm navigating.

### ***The Truth about the truth:***

- So where are you pursuing happiness instead of holiness?

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