

Independence Day, 4 July 2021

Bearing the fruit of Joy

What Does the Bible Say about the Pursuit of Happiness?

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Recent Political History: John Locke, Thomas Jefferson, U.N.
International Day of Happiness

A Questionable Phrase: What is “happiness?” Should Jefferson have said “property,” “holiness,” or nothing more? Does God want us to be happy? Is the “pursuit of happiness” a right granted by God?

Solomon’s Pursuit: “I said in my heart, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.’ But behold, this also was vanity.” Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 24-25; 12:13, 14

Seek First: “But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33.

Christian Joy: These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.” John 15:1-13.

F_____ seek the Kingdom of God

R_____ in Him. Or, it is not a formula;

it’s a R _____

U_____ God.

I _____ Joy

T _____ in Heaven