

NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Happiness depends on happenings. Joy depends on Jesus, others, then you.”

Jesus First

I went to Liberty Baptist College, now Liberty University, in the mid 70's, At that time Dr. Jerry Farwell was the pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, the president of the College, in-charge of the TV and Radio broadcasts, [the Moral Majority organization](#) and oversaw everything else in that ministry. I had the honor of speaking with him several times. (There is a [Jerry Farwell Museum](#))

He always had different ways of raising funds for the ministries. As a college student, I helped with the TV program. One Sunday, my part was to hold my finger on a record player turntable to keep it from turning too fast while he gave his funding plea. At that time, he was offering a “Jesus First” pin to those who gave. One the TV screen the pin was seen turning on a white surface. If the camera was a little lower you would have seen my thumb. At college we would joke. Jesus First, Jerry Second.

The other day, while shopping, a clerk was putting something on a shelf in front of me. He moved and said to me, “I am sorry, Customers are always first.” I replied, “No Jesus is first.” He looked at me and said, “No customers are always first.” I thought how sad. Today, our priorities are business, making money, pleasures, others, and even our self before Jesus. Today, many churches are dropping in attendance. You cannot talk about God in schools, businesses, stores, scouting and politics. There is even a church in town that voted not to have the Bible used in their sermons.

In our [Declaration of Independence](#) it is stated: “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.” Jefferson declared himself an [Epicurean](#) during his lifetime: this is a philosophical doctrine that teaches the pursuit of happiness, here meaning “prosperity, thriving, and wellbeing”¹ In other words, your happiness depends on happenings, other people, things, places, and thoughts. This emotion is only temporary so you need to keep repeating those items that make you happy.

“Joy comes when you make peace with who you are, why you are and how you are.”² “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Ps 30:5 “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy.” Gal 5:22 “Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Neh 8:10 “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” John 15:11 As Christians joy comes when you put Jesus first, Others second and Yourself last. It is there even when everything else fails.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”. Matt 6:33 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matt 6: 21 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Deut 6:5



What does it mean to you
Jesus being first?

Charles L Stambaugh

Not putting Jesus first
during times of unhappiness
will not result in a spirit of joy,
but a troubled spirit asking:
...O...Y?



¹[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life,_Liberty_and_the_pursuit_of_Happiness)

²www.psychologies.co.uk/joy-vs-happiness

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