

# The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

www.collinsville-troycoc.org

(618) 667-6708



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## The Pursuit of Happiness

- Renn Ferguson

In 1776 a document was signed that recorded this sentence, "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." That document was the Declaration of Independence. All those years ago those men realized that there were certain rights that every individual had. While much could be said (especially about the right to life) let us focus on the pursuit of happiness.

When we think about happiness what comes to our mind? For many, it is financial success. In fact, in 2006 a film entitled "The Pursuit of Happiness" was released. It depicted the real-life events of a man and his son who were evicted from their apartment. They bounced from shelter to shelter while the man tried to find work to better their lives. In the end, he landed a job working for at a brokerage firm. As a result, his wealthy and prosperity grew exponentially. While the film is very well done, every time I have watched I have been left with the impression that in part they believe money provides happiness.

It is unfortunate but many people feel that way. Is money really what provides happiness? Well, when we look at the scriptures, that could not be further from the truth. Solomon experimented with every form of earthly pleasure and his conclusion in every instance was that it was vain (i.e., Ecclesiastes 2:1-9). At the end of his book, he tells us what brings true meaning, fulfillment, and happiness in life "...fear God and keep His commandments ..." (12:13). After all that he had been through he realized that the only thing that can truly make a person happy is being right with God. Paul reiterates this in the New Testament. In 1 Timothy 6:6 he wrote, "But godliness with contentment is great gain". Contentment is good but, when we couple that with a godly life it becomes far more rewarding, and beneficial.

We all have the right to pursue happiness. But we must understand that true happiness cannot be supplied through earthly wealth. True happiness only comes from contentment and a godly life.

### CONNECTIONS



2022 Theme:  
More About Jesus

The Correspondent is a weekly publication of the COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST. The church meets at 1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234