



COMMUNITY CHAPEL

AT AMES CREEK

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Sermon Notes

September 4th, 2005 • Pastor Mark McCartin

My Friend thinks, he'd have to give up too much to become a Christian

How do we reconcile Bible passages like:

Ps 16:11

*"You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
(NKJV)*

With ones like,

Matt 16:24

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"

Which is it – "self-denial" or "fullness of joy?"

Blaise Pascal

"All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves."

C.S. Lewis

"Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half hearted creatures, fooling about with and sex and ambition about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

Blaise Pascal

"There once was in man a true happiness of which now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself."

Ps 37:4

*"Delight yourself in the LORD
and he will give you the desires of your heart."*

Ps 42:1-2

*"As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."*

Ps 63:1

*"O God, you are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you,
my body longs for you,
in a dry and weary land
where there is no water."*

Ps 36:7-9

*"How priceless is your unfailing love!
Both high and low among men
find refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
For with you is the fountain of life..."*

John 6:66-68

"...many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

'You do not want to leave too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"

Ps 34:8

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him."

John Piper writes,

"My old effort to achieve worship with no self interest in it proved to be a contradiction in terms. Worship is basically adoration, and we adore only what delights. There is no such thing as sad adoration or unhappy praise."

Rom 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Rom 1:21-23

"...Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."

1 Peter 1: 8

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,,,"

Heb 11:6

"...Anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."