

Good Friday 10 April 2020

Ps.112, 1: *“Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.”*

1Pt.2, 24-25: *“By his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”*

One can fear the wrong things. And one can delight in the wrong things. The perfect expression, and example, of this is our search for happiness. There is a reason why we don't find it and we learn it from those who do: it's that we don't fear God and don't delight or find pleasure in his commandments.

Without God and the light of his word we search for happiness like one in the darkness of the night stumbling from one thing to the next without knowing where he is going and never finding.

Because not happiness but suffering and death is the consequence of sin – of not giving God what is due to God and of delighting in the rejection of his will in favour of our own. Is it not true to liken man to sheep gone and going astray? But there is a suffering and death that is not the consequence of sin but of righteousness, that is, of fearing God and delighting in his will – the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was without sin. As such it could according to the will of God atone for sin, once and for all (as an atoning sacrifice – 1Jn.4, 10).

Christ is grace to the sinner and his way to God the Father – the shepherd and guardian of our souls.