

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Miserable**

"A man's as miserable as he thinks he is." – Seneca

"It's sin and not poverty that makes men miserable." – unknown Proverb

"Miserable people love to make other people miserable. I don't hate them; I just feel sorry for them." – Brandi Glanville

"It is the working man who is the happy man. It is the idle man who is the miserable man." – Benjamin Franklin

"If we think happy thoughts, we will be happy. If we think miserable thoughts, we will be miserable." – Dale Carnegie

Merriam-Webster defines miserable as, "Being in a pitiable state of distress or unhappiness." The online dictionary indicates, "Wretchedly unhappy or uncomfortable." Just the mere definition of this word conjures in our minds something we truly want to avoid.

One of the clear aspects of the word that we need to understand, is that this is referring to a state of mind. Things may not be going as we had hoped, we may be struggling in our relationships, our financial situation is less than ideal, etc. It is how we view these adversities that determines whether we are miserable.

Does it surprise you when you read of Paul stating, "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Phil. 4:11)? "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4)?

The word "miserable" is not unknown in the Scriptures. Job used it when he made reference to "his friends": "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all!" (Job 16:20). Obviously, he was not pleased with the things which they said to him.

Misery is not something we want. We don't want to feel it ourselves, nor do we want to be around others who enjoy being miserable. Perhaps that is stated facetiously, but it truly seems like some people love or thrive on living in misery.

The apostle Paul says we are known and read by all men (2 Cor. 3:2-3). It would be a shame if people read us as miserable. Who would want to be around us? How could we tell others we live for Christ if we live in a world of doom and gloom? Sometimes Christians walk about looking like they have lost their best friend. We need to do our best to not look and act miserable.

You are a living advertisement for Christ. What do you want your advertisement to say to others who do not know Christ? We want people to know and see, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).