

HAPPY LANDINGS
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When we go to the movies we love happy endings. We want the right guy to get the girl. We want the world saved from extinction. We want the hero to win. The same is true in real life. We want a happy ending.

♥SLIDE #: Red Riding Hood

Was rescued by: the Wolf? Dopey the Dwarf? Arnold Schwarzenegger? No

♥SLIDE #: *By a gun in the hands of a hunter:*

And she lived what? Happily ever after.

♥SLIDE #: Snow White

Was rescued by: Shrek? A SWAT team? No:

♥SLIDE #: *By a kiss on the lips of a handsome prince.*

And she lived what? Happily ever after.

♥SLIDE #: Cinderella

Was rescued by: Brad Pitt? Sponge Bob Square Pants? Prince William? No:

♥SLIDE #: *By a glass slipper in the hands of Prince Charming.*

And she lived what? Happily ever after.

♥SLIDE #: Roger rescued from life of misery by Superman?

No:

♥SLIDE #: *By fearing God and keeping his commandments.*

And he can now live what? Happily ever after.

♥SLIDE #: *Ecclesiastes 12:13: Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.*

Solomon proclaims that fearing God and obeying His commands is the only way to have a happy ending.

Doesn't mean my life has been all smooth sailing. But, it does mean I will die genuinely happy.

Solomon looked back over his life and realized that he failed miserably in the art of living "happily ever after!"

The context: outline the entire book (especially chapters 2-5)

He failed to fear God. He did it his own way! And he was miserable.

♥SLIDE #: Ecclesiastes 2:17: "I hated life!"

♥SLIDE #: WHERE DID SOLOMON GO WRONG?

♥SLIDE #: *1 Kings 11:1-3: King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter — Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless,*

Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

This is wholehearted disobedience: He was the wisest man who ever lived—he deliberately refused to follow God's commandments.

Many foreign alliances: royal birth: power hungry alliances

Why? Insecure: David was a great warrior could take care of himself. Solomon's name meant peace. He began as a child king.

700 wives for alliances brought security—it also brought a compromising of principles.

“Held fast to them in love:” Perhaps it was lonely at the top! He had no peers. He was too smart and too rich to relate to anyone. He was looking for love in all the wrong places.

Shunamite woman? Not secure enough: Not exciting enough?

Massive Adultery leads to a Massive Mess.

♥SLIDE #: 1 Kings 11:4-8: As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.... 7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

Molech: sacrificed babies.

If you fail to follow God's commands—judgment awaits.

♥SLIDE #: 1 Kings 11:9: The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, ... 10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command. 11 So the LORD said to Solomon, ... “I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

It is out of this context that Solomon looked back on how he lived life and said, “I did it wrong and I hated it!

So, here is how to do it.

♥SLIDE #: Ecclesiastes 12:13: Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.

I don't know about you, but I like to stay away from fear.

I will always remember my most terrifying moment of pure-blooded—unadulterated Fear.

“Roger, some one is in the house!”

Search---

“Roger! He is in here!”

Ran to bedroom, reached for the light switch—on! Looked, no one there.

Screamed in terror and relief: “Julie, there is nobody *here*.”

Lost voice: couldn't preach for two weeks.

Intruder was a misquite tree outside our bedroom sliding glass door, branches swaying in the breeze—backlit by the light of the full moon.

•♥SLIDE #: There is a dimension of the “Fear of the Lord,” which means “To scare the pants off of someone,” or to be “filled with great dread.”

SLIDE #: Isaiah 6: Isaiah falling down when he saw God mighty and lifted up.

SLIDE #: Matthew 14:22-33: Disciples more afraid of Jesus when he stopped the storm than they were of the storm.

♥SLIDE #: JAMES 2:19: “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that -- and shudder.”

A schoolteacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable at all.

On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work.

When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest. He had no trouble with discipline that term.

The “Fear of the Lord” sounds like a negative thing. But, according to the Word of God, it is the best living that can happen to us. It is the lifestyle we all really want. It beats all the options.

•♥SLIDE #: The Fear of the Lord is a descriptive phrase which identifies a particular type of lifestyle.

Listen to these verses and decide whether or not you might want to live out “The Fear of the Lord” Lifestyle.

•SLIDE #: Proverb 10:27: The fear of the LORD adds length to life,

•SLIDE #: Proverb 28:14: Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD.

•SLIDE #: Proverb 15:33: The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom,

•SLIDE #: Proverb 14:16: A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil,

•SLIDE #: Proverb 14:26: He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

•SLIDE #: Proverb 14:27: The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

•SLIDE #: Proverb 19:23: The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

God's commandments are not capricious. They are completely for our best benefit.

•SLIDE #: *Deuteronomy 12:28: Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God.*

The Ten Commandments illustrate how God's commands are best for us and for society.

•SLIDE #: EXODUS 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother... (foundation of family)

13 "You shall not murder. (reduce violence, hurts person and all close to them)

14 "You shall not commit adultery. (hurts two families and many children)

15 "You shall not steal. (injury to others) (stole our Christmas presents) best value 500

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. (impairs relationships)

♥SLIDE #: 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (leads to all the sins in the book)

These are designed to protect us in society and make life safe and best for all.

You don't want to live in a society with no 10 commandments.

1950s Supreme Court took 10 commandments out of the school room.

Problem was that they did not replace it with anything!

Let me show you what a fearless life might look like. I will illustrate with dogs.

•SLIDE #: Goody is fearless: Yard man had pet pit bull tied up on front bumper. Goody came out side, saw the threat and fearlessly ran to pit bull and latched onto his leg.

Yard man and I ran to truck.

Pit bull just standing there, looking down at Goody, like, "What in the world do you think you are doing.

Some dogs are stupid—they have no fear—especially little dogs.

Let me illustrate the result of Solomon's no fear of God Lifestyle.

What the end of Solomon's life looked like.

Tommy Hornberg told me one of the funniest stories I ever heard.

Pulled into campground to rest in Yosemite. Big RV pulled up and stopped next to a low fence beside the parking lot.

♥SLIDE #: Tommy noticed in the window what he called an "RV DOG" sitting in the window as if he owned the world.

Door opened and dog raced out of RV and paused for a moment looking at the fence.

Then he raced toward the fence and in one leap cleared it and plunged 500 feet to his death. The owners were beside themselves. Called the park rangers: "We have a fence that looks like that at home. When we get home from a trip he races out of the RV and hops over his little fence. Toto must have thought we were home. We've got to get down there and get his body."

"Sorry, there's no way down there. 500 feet down that cliff."

"But we must. The diamond collar around his neck is worth at least \$5000."

(Tommy figured there had to be a way down and later the rangers would be scrambling to find the body of that dog.)

Now, I don't tell that story to offend dog lovers. I have a dog at home I love.

But it illustrates how much trouble a NO FEAR lifestyle can get you into.

♥SLIDE #: Ecclesiastes 12: 14: For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Jesus agreed in LUKE 12:5: “Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.” There is judgment coming.

Judgment for Christians is different than Judgment for Non-Christians.

♥SLIDE: For Christians judgment for sin is handled at the cross. Sins and failing to follow God’s commands are forgiven by grace at the cross as Christ carries all the sin of all the world for all time.

Christian Evaluation is described in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.

♥SLIDE #: *2 Corinthians 5:9-10: So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

Judgment Seat: Bema—reward stand at the Olympic games.

Good = profitable
Bad = unprofitable.
Rewards based on profitable or unprofitable service.

Why we never see our sins again? Grace

♥SLIDE: Judgment for the sins of Non-Christians is handled at the Great White Throne Judgment.

♥SLIDE: *REVELATION 20:11-12: Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*

♥SLIDE: *REVELATION 20:13-15: The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Settle your case with God “out of court” by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior while you are still alive and have time.

This is designed to get our attention.

Bad drivers in Va. will pay dearly. To fund its roads, state will issue traffic tickets as high as \$3,000.

"It's outrageous," says traffic court attorney Thaddeus Furlong of Springfield, Va. "When Mr. and

Mrs. Middle Class find out what they have to pay, there's going to be a backlash like you've never seen."

The option is to obey the laws.

God weeps over the disobedient.

One Jewish tradition tells of the time during the Exodus when the Israelites walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. After safely arriving on the other side, the water crashed down on the Egyptian army. As all of Pharaoh's men perished.

Up in Heaven the angels were rejoicing over the miraculous deliverance. Then they looked over to see God's reaction.

God was weeping.

God's love is so powerful and sure, that even the death of those who oppose him breaks his heart.

SLIDE #: FEARING GOD AND OBEYING HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT THE CONCLUSION. GOD'S "PERFECT LOVE" IS ABLE TO BANISH ALL FEAR.

SLIDE #: 1 John 4:18: There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Once a young man proposed to his girl as they sat looking over the beautiful lake. "Darling, I want you to know that I love you more than anything else in the world. I want you to marry me. I'm not wealthy; I'm not rich like Johnny Brown. I don't have a yacht or Rolls-Royce like Johnny Brown, but I do love with all my heart."

She thought for a minute and then replied, "I love you with all my heart, too, but tell me more about Johnny Brown."

This is Not Perfect love. Perfect love looks more like this:

EXPLAIN THE VERSE and salvation experience of grace: no punishment.

No punishment after we come to Christ.

In perfect love we go on to a deeper level.

No fear as the love relationship with God matures.

If still afraid of God, if we are not experiencing a deepening love relationship with God, then our experiencing of God's love has still a ways to go!

The fear of God and the Love God mix well all through the scriptures.

♥SLIDE #: PSALM 118:4: Let those who fear the Lord say, "His love endures forever."

My parents were concerned with my character development. In my childhood there was a certain fear of them and what they would do if I got out of line.

They used the Bible as a guideline: and my brother and I are the better for it.

Never left a mark on me. Never abused. But fear of their discipline made a better person out of me.

And they mixed Love with the fear. "I am only doing this because I love you. I want you to be someone special and I don't want you ever to behave like that again. I love you."

Godly fear begins to give way to love.

Mom and dad's discipline doesn't frighten any more. Our relationship changes to one of Love. I don't fear my parents anymore—ever.

SLIDE #: WHAT MIGHT EXPERIENCING PERFECT LOVE FEEL LIKE?

During the Revolutionary War, a young officer in the British Army, before embarking for this country, became engaged to a young lady in England.

In one of the battles the officer was badly wounded and lost a leg. He wrote to his fiancée, telling her how he was disfigured and maimed, and so changed from what had been when she had last seen him that he felt it his duty to release her from all obligation to become his wife.

The young lady wrote an answer. In her letter she said that whether or not they married had noting whatsoever to do with had happened to him in battle, and wrote,

SLIDE #: "I intend to marry you as long as there was enough of your body left to hold your soul!"

Ooooooooooooooooooooo

- SLIDE #: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong, they are weak but He is strong.
- SLIDE #: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.
- SLIDE #: Jesus loves me when I'm good, and I do the things I should. Jesus loves me when I'm bad, though it makes Him very sad.
- SLIDE #52: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.
- SLIDE #53: Jesus loves me He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide! He will wash away my sin; let this little child come in.
- SLIDE #54: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.