

INTRODUCTION: CERTAIN ALIENATED RIGHTS (see Gen.1-3)

I. LIFE IS FOUND IN CHRIST (see Jn.1:4; 5:26; see 6:35; 8:12; 11:25; 14:6)

A. GIVEN BY CREATOR (Gen.2:7; see 1Cor.15:45)

B. FORFEITED BY MAN (Gen.2:17; 3:4f,24; 5:5f; see Rom.5:12f)

C. RESTORED BY CHRIST (Jn.3:16; 17:2; Gal.2:20; see Ezk.37:1f)

II. LIBERTY IS FOUND IN CHRIST

A. GIVEN BY CREATOR (Gen.1:26f; 2:25)

B. FORFEITED BY MAN (Gen.3:16f; 21; see Jn.8:34; Rom.8:20)

C. RESTORED BY CHRIST (Jn.8:36; Rom.6:17f; 8:21f; see Col.1:13f; note: Gal.5:13f; 1Cor.9:19; 10:23f; 11:33; 12:7f; 13:1f; 14:3; 16:1f)

III. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN CHRIST

DEFINITION: THE ENJOYMENT OF OBJECTIVE GOOD (see Justice Field (1883)¹;
see 1Kngs.4:25; Ps.128:2; Eccl.5:18-6:2)

A. GIVEN BY CREATOR (Gen.2:8f,15f; see Eph.5:28f)

B. FORFEITED BY MAN (Gen.3:16,17f,21,24; see Rom.8:20 ⇒ Ecclesiastes)

C. RESTORED BY CHRIST (Rom.8:19f; see Eph.2:5f; 5:22f; Col.1:13a&b; 2:20&3:1f; 3:9&10; 3:5f&12f;
see Ex.20:1f; Mt.5:1ff; see *Phil.3:14,9f*)

IV. LOOK TO CHRIST FOR LIFE, LIBERTY & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS!

(see Mt.11:27f; Col.1:13; 3:9,10; 5f,12f; see Ex.20:1f; Mt.5:1f)

¹ See concurring opinion by Justice Stephen Johnson Field in *Butcher's Union Co. v. Crescent City Co.*, 111 U.S. 746 (1883) as found in Wikipedia under *Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of the sermon? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you *do* these things?
6. How is each "unalienable right" *given*?
 - a. How is each one *forfeited*?
 - b. How is each one *restored*?
 - c. What is the duty, power and authority of civil government regarding these rights?
 - d. What does civil government need to do to successfully fulfill their duty and faithfully exercise their power and authority?
 - e. What is the limit of government duty, power and authority?
7. What is the definition of "the pursuit of happiness"? (See Wikipedia article under *Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*)
 - a. How have you understood this phrase?
 - b. How do you think it is commonly understood today?
 - c. What is the definition in the 1883 concurring opinion by Justice Field?
 - d. How has this phrase been interpreted to give a "right" to "privacy"? What are your thoughts about that interpretation?
 - e. How is the freedom to marry someone from any race in keeping with the biblical notion of "the pursuit of happiness"? (see the reference to the 1967 Loving v. Virginia case; see Gen.2:7f,18f; Ps.128)
 - f. How is faith in Christ the enjoyment of an objective good? (see Phil.3:14,9f; Eph.4:13)
 - g. How is the Lord's Supper "the pursuit of happiness"? (see Jn.6:53; 40&54)