

Going For The Gusto!



1Peter 3:10 & 11

By

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Going For the Gusto

For he that would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

Let him eschew evil, and do good: let him seek peace and ensue it. 1Peter 3:10 & 11

Getting the most out of life is every man's desire, whether he is conscience of it or not. There is inherent in the nature of every man the drive to reach for the best. Some would call this drive "ambition", some would call it "Ego", and still others would call it lust or avarice. The degree to which we are able to control this aspect of our nature determines which category we fall in. For now it is sufficient to acknowledge the fact that there lies within each of us a hunger and a thirst for life at its best.

A few years ago there was a popular beer commercial that promoted this very idea. The slogan and theme of the commercial was “**Go For The Gusto.**” Take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and get all that you can out of life. Indeed, life is too short to let a day go by without extracting every ounce of life’s essence that is humanly possible. This is not some “*New Age*” idea. The philosophy espoused here is as old as time itself. When God created man, He put this world at his feet. All that God made, He gave man dominion over it. God intended for man to have nothing but the best things in life, which was the whole of creation. And even though we blew it in the garden, God has been guiding us back to His original design ever since. It is not only His will for us, but His

desire for us as well. In Psalm 34:12 the Psalmist ask “What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?” This is no more than an echo of our “**Gusto**” approach to life. Is there a man among us who doesn’t want to partake of the good of this life? And the Ecclesiastic, in Ecclesiastes 3:13 goes so far as to say “And also that every man should eat, drink, and enjoy the good of his labor, it is the gift of God”. He too shares in our “**Gusto**” philosophy.

While obtaining the “**Gusto**” is our desire and God’s will for us, how we move towards achieving that goal will determine our measure of success. The writer of our text, Peter, suggest that there are three basic steps that we must take to succeed:

#1. Refrain our tongue from evil and our lips that they speak no guile.

#2. Let us eschew evil, do good;

#3. Seek peace and ensue it.

Peter says again in order to Go For The Gusto, we must first refrain our tongues from evil and our lips that they speak no guile. In other words, control our mouths. Be careful about what you say. Whether you know it or not, the tongue can be a lethal weapon. The Proverb says in Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” A man’s tongue can yield satisfaction, life or death. Those who are prone to use the tongue must take the consequences of their words.

In Proverbs 15:1,2 & 4 we are taught “ A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. And of course Jesus admonishes us to take special care of the things we say in Matthew 15:37 “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy word thou shalt be condemned.” It is hard to enjoy life when you are consumed with evil conversation. Two things are happening when you are controlled by a foul mouth:

- 1 you are wasting valuable time that could be spent more constructively and

2 you reveal the true character of your personality.
Neither of which do you any good.

Next Peter tells us to eschew evil and do good. The Greek word that corresponds with **eschew** is *ekklino*, which means to shun, to decline, to avoid, or to go out of the way. Do you get the impression that evil should be left alone? Peter wants us to know that in order to really enjoy this life there must be no room on your agenda for evil, in thought, word, or deed. Instead, we are encourage to do good. Proverbs 15:3 reminds us that *“the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good”*. This means there is nothing that we do in the dark that will not come to light. We can not hide from God. And indeed we should not want or need to, if we are serious about getting the most out

of life. *“The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever.”* Psalm 37:18

We all believe that serving the Lord will pay off after while, but the Word would have us to know that in this life and in the life to come we shall reap the benefits of living a good life. *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in His law doeth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf shall not wither; whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff that the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the*

judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

Psalm 1

Go For The Gusto. Get the most out of life that you can. Bridal your tongue and do good. There is one last thing we must do to make sure we are successful when we **Go For The Gusto.** We must seek peace and ensue it. To ensue means to pursue. We must make peace our aim. Search for peace and go after it with all of your heart. Try to live in peace even if you must run after it, catch it, and hold on to it. There is no **Gusto**, there is no good life, without peace! There is no joy, there is no happiness without peace! Real peace begins with the Word of God. “Great peace have they which

love thy law: and nothing shall offend them". Psalm 119:165 James says that even wisdom does not exist without peace "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. Seek peace if you want joy! Seek peace if you want happiness! Seek peace if you want wisdom. He that would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him eschew evil and do good: let him seek peace and ensue it. I don't know about you but Jesus is my peace. In Him I find that perfect peace, the peace that passeth all understanding.

