

That Which is Pleasing to God

Introduction

- A. It is important to have clearly defined goals. The old saying is correct, "If we aim at nothing to are sure to achieve it."
- B. The Christian understands about goals. The Bible constantly reminds us to live for the glory of God. The question, however, has to do with the meaning of the glory of God in the practical aspects of daily life.
- D. When we pursue this subject we see that living for the glory of God, means in part, to do that which is pleasing to God.

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk (live) and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. I Thess. 4:1

I. The Importance of Pleasing God.

- A. God works in us to enable us to please Him, Philipians 2:12,13.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Observation: Obedience brings divine enablement so we may more and more please Him. This activity Paul describes as "working out our salvation (present tense salvation, or daily sanctification)."

- B. Pleasing God is the standard for daily life, I Thessalonians 2:4.

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Observation: Due to false priorities we all have a tendency to think of our own reputation or security first. We must learn to please God first.

- C. Enoch is commended for living so as to please God, Hebrews 11:5.

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death and was not found, because God had translated him, for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Observation: Enoch lived in a very ungodly day. in spite of this he lived his daily life pleasing God. He is given to us as an example.

- D. Pleasing God is doing His will, Hebrews 13:20,21.

Now the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect (equipped) in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight

Observation: Many Christians seek to do the will of God as though it were a mystery withheld from us. It is simply pleasing God.

E. Pleasing God is the basis for a successful prayer life, I John 3:22.

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Observation: This verse explains why many Christians do not have a joyful and satisfying prayer life. We are too often found in disobedience.

II. That Which is Pleasing to God.

A. Obedience is pleasing to God, I Samuel 15:22.

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams.

B. Uprightness is pleasing to God, I Chronicles 29:17.

I know also, my God, that Thou triest the heart and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things

C. Reverence and hope in divine mercy is pleasing to God, Psalm 147:11.

The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.

D. The people of God are pleasing to God, Psalm 149:4.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people; He will beautify the meek with salvation.

E. Prayer is pleasing to God, Proverbs 15:8.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

F. The place of His people in His Body is pleasing to God, I Cor. 12:18.

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.

G. Sacrificing for others is pleasing to God, Philippians 4:18.

But I have all, and abound, I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

H. Faith is pleasing to God, Hebrews 11:6.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

I. Praise and thanksgiving are pleasing to God, Hebrews 13:15,16.

By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name. But to do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.