

## PLEASING GOD

*"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."  
(2 Cor. 5:9)*

*"Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God." (1 Thess. 4:1)*

**O**UR aim in life should be first and foremost to please God. We were created for His “glory” (Isaiah 43:7) and therefore whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we ought to do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). The Bible says we are not our own (1 Cor. 6:19). We were bought at a price and therefore we ought to glorify God in our body and spirit which are God’s (1 Cor. 6:20). Christ died for us “that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Cor. 5:15). When we became a Christian we died to sin and self and became alive to God. Paul says: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Christ’s aim on earth was fully to please His Heavenly Father. He said to the Jews: “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him” (John 8:29). Christ proclaims in the Book of Psalms: “Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of Me. I delight to do Your will, O My God, and Your law is within My heart” (Psalm 40:7-8). Christ did not please Himself (Rom. 15:3) “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8). His Heavenly Father was well pleased with Him and declared from heaven: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:17).

Enoch is a man who pleased God. He walked with God for three hundred years. The Bible declares: “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Heb. 11:5). Abraham is another example of a man who pleased God. “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform” (Rom. 4:20-21). David strived to walk blamelessly before God. God said of him: “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will” (Acts 13:22).

What are some ways in which we can please God? There are at least four ways in which we can please God: First, by walking uprightly before Him. The Bible says that God takes no “pleasure in wickedness” (Psalm 5:4). He is “of purer eyes than to behold evil” (Hab. 1:13). He desires “clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:4). The Bible says that “those who are in the flesh cannot *please* God” (Rom. 8:8). Second, by not

entangling ourselves in the world. The Bible says: “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may *please* him who enlisted him as a soldier” (2 Tim. 2:4). We are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2). Third, by living a life of faith. The Bible declares: “But without faith it is impossible to *please* Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). God declares that “the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My Soul has no pleasure in him” (Heb. 10:38). And fourth, by doing good to all and especially to those in the body of Christ. The Bible says: “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10). And “do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well *pleased*” (Heb. 13:16). Paul admonishes us saying: “And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful” (Titus 3:14).

Are you aiming to please God? Are you living to the glory of God? If not, begin today by asking God to help you and to enable you to do all His good pleasure “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). Pray always that God would count you worthy of His calling “and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power” (2 Thess. 1:11).

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