

## THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD

Text: Hebrews 11:6

INTRO: There are a number of things that are said in the Scriptures to please God. As Christians, with our eyes focused on heaven, it should be in our interest to give consideration to the things that please God.

### I. THE PERSONAL LIFE & BEHAVIOR OF JESUS PLEASED GOD. Matt. 3:17; 17:5.

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).

### II. THE SACRIFICIAL DEATH OF JESUS PLEASED GOD.

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. (Isa. 53:4-6, 10).

A. This was God's plan from the time of man's first sin. And all who dwell on the earth will worship [the beast] whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

B. Jesus came to earth with a thorough understanding of His mission, & a willingness to accomplish it.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, & to give His life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45).

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down

My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, & I have power to take it again...  
(JN 10:17-18)

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself & became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross, therefore God also has highly exalted Him & given Him the name which is above every name... (Phil. 2:8-9).

### III. THAT ALL THE FULLNESS SHOULD DWELL IN CHRIST.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven & that are on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created thru Him & for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, & by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.  
(Col. 1:15-20).

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;  
(Col. 2:9).

And He put all things under His feet, & gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22-23).

### IV. TO GIVE US A KINGDOM.

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32).

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence & godly fear. (Heb. 12:28).

## V. FOR US TO PREACH CHRIST.

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, & Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block & to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews & Greeks, Christ the power of God & the wisdom of God. (1 Cor 1:21-24)

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Cor. 2:2).

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them... But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God & the name of Jesus Christ, both men & women were baptized... When [Peter & John] had testified & preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans... Then Philip opened his mouth, & beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (Acts 5:5, 12, 25, 35-38).

## VI. FOR US TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.

Indeed I have all & abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, a sweet smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. (Phil. 4:8).

But do not forget to do good & to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Heb. 13:16).

Acts 20:35

CONCLUSION: The wise man recognized that the whole duty of man is to fear God & keep His commands, Eccl. 12:13. In another passage, he wrote this proverb: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Prov. 16:7).

Exton, PA, July 9, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 20, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 21, 2001

Bethlehem, PA, November 18, 2001