

WHAT PLEASES GOD

Colossians 1:9-10

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. When I was growing up pleasing my father was very important to me. I did not always please him as I should have but pleasing him was important to me.
- b. Now that I am a Christian, pleasing and honoring my Heavenly Father is important to me.
- c. In fact, honoring and glorifying God with how we live and act and behave is the purpose of life and tonight I want to talk about some things that please God.

II. GOD IS PLEASED WHEN THE LOST ARE SAVED-

- a. The Bible says that God is pleased when a lost person turns from their sin and is saved. *Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV) "...As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O (lost) house of Israel?'"*
- b. *Isaiah 55:7 (NKJV) "Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him (re)turn to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."*
- c. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus pictured a lost son coming to the Heavenly Father for salvation. In that parable, Jesus pictures the Heavenly Father running to save the lost when they repent and turn to Him.
- d. Nothing pleases the great heart of good and gracious God more that when a lost person turns from their sinful ways and are saved.

III. GOD IS PLEASED WHEN HIS CHILDREN GROW IN THE GRACE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST-

- a. Parents are pleased when their children grow and learn and develop and our Heavenly Father is pleased when we grow and mature and develop as Christians.
- b. God will always love us but He is not pleased when we are stagnant, stunted and stumble in our Christian growth.
- c. The Bible often speaks of our Christian growth. *2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* *1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby..."* *Colossians 1:10 (NKJV) "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."* 2

Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV) "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds and grows toward each other."

- d. God is pleased when His children are growing in faith, love, holiness, humility, commitment, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, obedience, holiness, service and in their walk with the Lord.
- e. Christian growth does not happen automatically. 1 Timothy 4:7 says that believers are to "exercise ourselves toward godliness."
- f. Being saved by God's grace and mercy through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ takes a moment but growing as a Christian takes a lifetime of discipline, effort and commitment.
- g. We grow in the Lord when we make the reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word's and worship and prayer and godly living daily priorities in our life.

IV. GOD IS PLEASED WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THE LOST-

- a. God is pleased when those He has saved are busy and involved in sharing and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are lost.
- b. God has commanded us in Matthew 28:19 to "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...*" God wants us to take the gospel to the world beginning at our front doorstep.
- c. God will always love us but if we are not involved in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to those around the world then we are not pleasing God.
- d. We can share the gospel through personal evangelism (sharing the gospel; giving our personal testimony; handing out tracks; inviting the lost to church), giving to missions and praying for the lost we know and those we don't know.

V. GOD IS PLEASED WHEN HIS PEOPLE LIVE IN HARMONY-

- a. God is pleased when His people live and work together in love, oneness and harmony.
- b. *Psalms 133:1 (NKJV) "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" John 13:35 (NKJV) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Ephesians 4:4-6 (NKJV) "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." 1 John 3:14-16 (NKJV) "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer*

has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

- c. Not only does the Lord Jesus reconcile us to God, He also reconciles us to one another.
- d. In Ephesians 2:15 the Bible says that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a “new man”; a new kind of humanity where people who once rejected one another and even hated one another can now live in peace and harmony together.
- e. The unity of God’s people is founded on the truth that in Christ everyone is equal. There are no second-class citizens in the church. No one sits at the back of the bus in the church. There are no ranks and divisions in the body of Christ.
- f. We are all saved the same way. We are all reconciled to God in the same way. We all have the same Father. We are all indwelt by the same Spirit. We all have the same Bible. We have the same purpose. We have the same mission. We are headed to the same home.
- g. God is pleased when His people live and work together in love, oneness and harmony.
- h. God is pleased with what is happening here tonight. God is pleased with the partnership of our two churches. God is pleased with the desire of our two congregations to come together to work together in harmony and love to reach lost people for Jesus Christ.
- i. And if you are pleased then your heart matches the heartbeat of God.

VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. God is pleased when the lost is saved. God is pleased when His people are growing in the Lord. God is pleased when we share the gospel with the lost. God is pleased when His people live and work together in love, oneness and harmony.
- b. I want to invite you to come to this altar and let’s pray for one another.