

Laboring to be Pleasing to Him!

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore **we labour**, that, whether present or absent, **we may be accepted of him.**

- How often we have a flipant attitude about God, His Word, His work, His church
- We seldom take Him seriously
- We don't show Him the same respect we would show people that we work with

1. Paul labored to be accepted of the Lord Jesus

a. The word labor means to aspire or have an ambition for something, to strive.

b. The same word is used in [Romans 15:20](#) **Yea, so have I strived** to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

c. The word study in this verse has the same meaning.

Something you work at [I Thessalonians 4:11](#) **And that ye**

study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

- d. It was Paul's goal in life to be pleasing to the Lord Jesus. That is what labor means. Something you work at. Something that you have as a goal in life

2. Paul constantly every where worked and labored for the same goal

- a. They would have known how he acted around them
- b. He tells them that he lives that way there and everywhere
- c. Paul didn't just try to please God on Sunday or at the church but every where
- d. Paul didn't divide his life into the secular and the sacred
 - i. Some of us almost act like what we do at church is one life and what we do at work is another
 - ii. It is like we put on our Sunday best clothes and life
 - iii. With Paul it was who he was, a lifestyle

3. Paul's goal was to be accepted of him

- a. The word accepted here is the idea of pleasing Him or doing something He accepts or likes

- b. Paul has clearly taught that we are already accepted of Him
- i. We are accepted in the beloved. Or God has accepted us in Christ, made us acceptable, pleasing
Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
 - ii. We are justified, made as though we had never sinned
Romans 5:1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - iii. We are not what we were. **I Corinthians 6:9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, **10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
 - iv. We are new creatures **II Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new.**

c. But Paul wanted to be pleasing to God

- i. That is the word found in [Romans 12:1-2](#) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.* [2](#) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and **acceptable**, and perfect, will of God.
- ii. [Romans 14:18](#) For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* **acceptable to God**, and approved of men.

4. Our goal should be to seek out what is pleasing to our God and to do that [Ephesians 5:10](#) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

- a. An offering for the missionary was well pleasing to the Lord [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.**

- b. It pleases God when children obey their parents
Colossians 3:20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is **well pleasing** unto the Lord.
- c. God is pleased when we do His will as He works in us
Hebrews 13:20 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, **21** Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is **wellpleasing in his sight**, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- d. We should walk worthy of Him that has done so much for us **Colossians 1:10** That ye might walk worthy of the Lord **unto all pleasing**, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- e. Paul wanted to please God not man or even himself
I Corinthians 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be **judged of you, or of man's judgment:** yea, **I judge not mine own self.** **4** For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but **he that judgeth me is the Lord.** **5** Therefore **judge nothing before the time**, until the Lord come, who both will

bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and **then shall every man have praise of God.**

f. Paul taught people how to live pleasing to God

I Thessalonians 4:1 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 and to please God**, so ye would abound more and more.

g. When Paul was about to die he felt like he had pleased God. **II Timothy 4:7** I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.