

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS  
PLEASING GOD REVISITED  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:1

**Introduction**

Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 11:1–“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

Jesus said in John 8:29– “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; **for I do always those things that please him.**”

Jesus said that He **always** did the things that pleased His Father. So, part of following Christ is **living a life that is pleasing to the Father!**

1 Peter 2:21 tells us that we should “. . .follow His steps.”

I want us to consider again this topic of “Pleasing God”. Remember we dealt with it in chapter 2 not long ago as we looked at:

**6 Things In A Christian's Walk That Pleases God:**

**Enduring Suffering, Exercising Boldness, Exhorting Honorably,  
Examined Honestly, Effort Exerted, Exemplary Behavior.**

I want us to look at three more thoughts here about “Pleasing God:”

- 1) **What** does it mean?
- 2) **Why** should we do it?
- 3) **How** can we do it?

**I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PLEASE GOD?**

**A. Pleasing The Lord Involves Discovering And Doing What Pleases The Lord Through Living In The Light Of His Word!** Look at our text:

*“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.”* **“abound” = to superabound (in quantity or quality), be in excess, be superfluous; also to cause to superabound or excel”**

*Psalms 119:130–“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”*

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*Psalm 119:105–“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

*Proverbs 6:23–“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:”*

*James 1:22–“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only deceiving your own selves.”*

*So, What Does It Mean To Please God?*

*It Involves Discovering And Doing What Pleases The Lord Through Living In The Light Of His Word!*

**B. Pleasing The Lord Means Doing His Will, And It Begins With The Heart Of The Inner Person!**

That is why we must guard our hearts!

*Proverbs 4:23–Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”*

**1. We Know That Salvation Comes From Obeying The Gospel From The Heart!**

*Romans 6:17–“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, **but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**”*

*Romans 10:9-10–“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and **shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;** and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

**2. Well, Pleasing God Also Comes From Obeying The Scriptures From The Heart!**

*Psalm 119:11–“Thy word have I hid **in mine heart that I might not sin against thee**”*

**Ephesians 6:5-8**

*Colossians 3:23—"And whatsoever ye do, do it **heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;**"*

**3. Also, As We Have Seen, Pleasing God Has Everything To Do With Fulfilling A Trust That Has Been Placed With Us.**

*1 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.**"*

**4. Pleasing God Has Nothing To Do With Pleasing Men!**

*Galatians 1:10—"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."*

Remember in Numbers 22, The false prophet Balaam had in his heart the desire to curse Israel **so he could please Balak, the King of Moab for a reward.** If it weren't for his donkey, he'd have been a dead man!

Balaam had a **heart problem!** He desired to please Balak more than he desired to please God!

Could I tell you that there are a lot of folks today that have Balaam's problem! And the reward may be varied! (Popularity, Prestige, Power, Possessions, etc.)

So, pleasing God is more than just what we do outwardly; it begins with a right heart attitude toward Him, and His Word!

We know from *1 Samuel 16:7* that man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks upon the heart.

So, God is not looking so much at just **what we do**, but He is also looking at **why we do it.** (i.e. our heart motivation)

Remember the widow woman who gave only two mites in Luke 21:3? Do you think that Jesus saw only **what she gave**? Or do you think Jesus **saw her heart fully trusting in God by giving all that she had**?

Remember Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the publican in Luke 18:13? Remember how the Pharisee trusted in himself, but the publican's full trust and hope was in the mercy of God!

So, what does it mean to please God?

***It Involves Discovering And Doing What Pleases The Lord Through Living In The Light Of His Word!***

***It Means Doing His Will, And It Begins With The Heart Of The Inner Person!***

**II. WHY SHOULD WE PLEASE GOD?**

**A. We Should Please God Because Judgment Is Coming!**

Knowing that we will one day stand before Christ and give an account, should be a real motivation for our living to please God!

*Romans 14:12—"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."*

*2 Corinthians 5:9-10—"Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."*

Some believers live their lives as if there will never be an accounting. That's a foolish way to live!

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Although we may rationalize what we do, and make excuses now, one day we will stand before Christ and our excuses will be no match for the searching gaze of Christ!

Realizing judgment is coming should motivate us to do those things that please God, but that isn't the most important thing.

**B. We Should Please God Because Of Our Love For The Lord!**

Pleasing the Lord is not only to be a primary focus of every believer, but it should also be something at which every believer should seek to excel at!

Not in order to be accepted by Him, because we are accepted if we are "in Christ", but we should seek to please God because we love Him!

*John 14:15—"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

Notice Jesus said, "If".

How sad it is to think that some who have been saved by His marvelous grace and who have been blessed beyond measure, still do not love Him enough to obey Him!

Rather, they are consumed with themselves and their selfish desires!

*We should please God because judgment is coming, because of our love for Him. . .*

**C. We Should Please God That We Might Abound In God's Grace And In His Work! (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)**

Look at our text again, *"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."*

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God wants to bless our lives! Over and over again in the Word of God we are reminded that God seeks only the best for us!

A life that pleases God is a life that is full and abounding!  
*John 10:10b—"... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

So, *Why should we please God?*

*Because Judgment Is Coming!*

*Because Of Our Love For The Lord!*

*That We Might Abound In God's Grace And In His Work!*

**III. HOW CAN WE PLEASE GOD?**

**A. Realize We Cannot Please Him On Our Own!**

The ability for us to please the Lord is not within us apart from His working in our lives!

*Romans 8:8—"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."*

*Hebrews 13:20-21—"Now the God of peace... 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."*

**Only God can enable us to live a life that is pleasing to Him!**

None of us can make it on our own, but God in His grace, can enable us to live a life that is "well-pleasing" unto Him!

**B. We Can Please God By Not Allowing Ourselves To Be Entangled With The Things Of This World!**

*2 Timothy 2:4—"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."*

*1 John 2:15-17—“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*

**C. We Can Please God When We Allow Christ To Live His Life Through Ours!**

*Galatians 2:20—I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Remember that the only life that God has ever been totally pleased with, is the life of His Son Jesus Christ!**

**D. We Can Please God By Living Our Lives By Faith In Him!**

*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.”*

The word of God doesn't just say it is good to have **faith...it says it is impossible to please God without it!**

In Romans 14:23, Paul wrote that **whatsoever was not of faith was sin.**

To not live by faith is to live by our own reason and impulse of the flesh, and we already know that we cannot please Him in the flesh!

**E. We Can Please God By Living For Others!**

That is a life of **“love.”** True love is seeking the best for another!

Strife and envy among the members of the Church is not pleasing to Him. I believe it grieves the heart of God when Church members can't get along with one another. Now we've got a good Spirit here now, but watch out! Satan wants to change that!

When we allow the enemy to so influence our lives that we involve ourselves in backbiting, gossiping, and complaining about one another, we cannot please God.

When we demand our rights above all else—that's not love! And in doing so, we reveal the shallowness of our own character.

*Romans 12:10—“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another”*

**Conclusion**

Are you pleasing God in your life? If not, why not come now and determine that from this point on you will, with His help, live to please Him!

1. Living not for this life, but eternity.
2. Allowing Christ to live His life through ours.
3. Living our lives by faith and not feelings!
4. Living a life of love – Love for God and love for others.