

## **INTRODUCTION**

**A. DECISIONS, DECISIONS!** (see Gen.24:12f,48f; Mt.26:39; Acts 16:6f)

**B. OUR PURPOSE** (1Cor.10:31; Eph.1:6,12,14; see Hag.1:8; Heb.13:21)

## **I. THE ONE WHO PLEASSED GOD PERFECTLY**

**A. MY BELOVED SON** (Mt.3:17; 12:18; 17:5(2Pt.1:17))

**B. ALWAYS** (Jn.8:29; see 4:34)

**C. THE FATHER'S WILL** (Jn.5:30,47; 6:38; 15:10; Mt.26:39)

**D. THE SPIRIT'S LEADING** (Lk.3:22; 4:1f,18)

## **II. GOD'S GENERAL MEANS TO PLEASE HIM** (see Acts 2:42)

**A. HIS WORD** (1Tm.3:15; 2Tm.3:16,17; see Ex.20:1f; Ps.119:105; 143:10; see Lk.2:46)

**B. HIS WORK** (1Kng19:8; Heb13:9; Jn6:53f /Eph.3:16; Phil.4:13; Col.1:10,11f /Mt.26:2f,30; Ps.118:13f,18,22f)

**C. HIS ANSWERS** (Ps.139:23,24; Jms.1:5; 3:17; 4:3f; see Lk.3:21; 6:12f; 9:29; 22:39f)

**D. HIS PEOPLE** (Prov.11:14; 15:22; 24:6; 2Sam.16:23; 1Cor.12:7,25; Mt.18:15f; Eph.4:15; see Lk.2:46,51f)

**E. SUMMARY: WE ALL PLEASE HIM BY THE SAME GENERAL MEANS**

## **III. GOD'S SPECIFIC MEANS TO PLEASE HIM** (Rom.11:29; see 1Cor.12:4f; 2Cor.13:1)

**A. HIS GIFTS: OPPORTUNITIES, ABILITIES, DESIRES** (Ex.36:2; see Mt.3:17&Eph.1:3f; Heb.7:26&10:4f; Jn.4:34&14:31)

**B. HIS CALLING: SERVE, SERVE WITH, SERVE TO** (1Tm.3:1; 1Tm.4:14; Acts 6:3f; see Mt.3:13f; Jn.1:15,27,30(see Mt.16:24); Jn.1:12; 3:16)

**C. SUMMARY: WE EACH PLEASE HIM BY DIFFERENT SPECIFIC MEANS** (1Pt.4:10,11; see 1Cor.12:1ff; Eph.4:12-16)

## **IV. PLEASE GOD!** (Col.1:10; see 1Cor.10:31f(Mt.22:37,39))

**A. MAKE THIS YOUR SINGLE-MINDED AMBITION!** (2Cor.5:9; Col.1:10; Mt.22:37; see Ps.25:14)

**B. TRUST GOD TO WORK THIS IN YOU!** (Heb.11:6; 13:21; Phil.2:12,13)

**C. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WONDERFUL MEANS HE HAS GIVEN!** (II, III above; see Acts 2:42; Ex.36:2)

**D. DO NOT BE PARALYZED BY FEAR!** (Is.30:21; Ps.37:23f; Mt.18:12f; 2Tm.3:16f; Acts16:6f /Mt.26:28)

**E. BE PREPARED TO CHANGE COURSE!** (Gen.12:1f; Ex.3:10; Mt.28:19f; Acts 16:6f w/Col.4:3)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of the sermon? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you *do* these things?
6. What is your objective in discerning God's will? What *should* it be (if different)?
7. For whom is discerning God's will important?
8. Who pleased God perfectly? How?
9. What general means has God given us to enable us to please Him?
  - a. Which of these is best established in your life?
  - b. Which do you need to establish more fully? How will you do this?
10. What specific means has God given us to enable us to please Him?
  - a. What has God given you in terms of special opportunities, abilities and desires to please Him?
    - i. Are there any things you are doing now that you hate to do or are really not that good at? Should you continue in these things?
    - ii. Are you passing up any good opportunities to please God?
    - iii. What do you love to do? (i.e., what stirs your heart?) Are you doing this?
  - b. Do you have the respect and support of your colleagues in the things you love to do?
  - c. Do you have the respect and support of those whom you serve in the things you love to do?
11. Is pleasing God your single ambition in life? Why or why not? If so, how is this evident in your words and works?
12. Do you trust God to work in you what pleases Him? Why or why not?
13. Are you so afraid of displeasing God that you attempt little or nothing? If so, why? If so, how can you overcome this?
14. Tell one or more stories of how God has worked in you to please Him. (e.g., conversion, growth in grace, career choices, marriage, family, etc. decisions)
15. Are you prepared to change course? Has God ever called you to change course?