

“PLEASING GOD”

Col 1:9-10

Modern Christianity bases much on personal preference: Shopping for a church. So opposite the Bible. Paul speaks of pleasing God.

PLEASING GOD THROUGH FOCUS

A. Every life has a focus (that which dominates the attention/affection)

1. For many people – the focus is themselves: Even after salvation
 - a. *Philippians 2:21* Other people are interested only in their own lives, not in the work of Jesus Christ.
 1. Glad to get to heaven – but their lives are aimed at themselves
2. This is not a good life-strategy
 - a. It's not satisfying b. Other people suffer c. God is not pleased
3. Lives of ingratitude for all that God is – all that God has done

B. Paul speaks of pleasing God

1. *Colossians 1:10* that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him...
 - a. The Lord: The focus of my life is God
 1. What does God think/what does God want/would this please God/does this honor God
2. This is an entire life focus: It actually reflects gratitude
 - a. *John 8:29* ...for I do always those things that please him.

PLEASING GOD THROUGH IMPACT

A. Paul recognizes that what pleases God is making impact on other people

1. This is a mark of true salvation: How can I touch others/reach others – how can I do something for God?
 - a. *Colossians 1:10* that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work...

B. A fruitless life (a life without impact) is displeasing to God

1. Parables of stewardship – the 1 talent man: How dare you not make impact with what I've given you
 - a. *Matt 25: you wicked & lazy servant...*
2. It is being so ungrateful to God – so opposite of His nature

C. This is the foundation of effectiveness in life

1. The mistake is linking fruitfulness only to calling
 - a. I'm not called – so I'm not involved b. I'm not sure if I'm called – so I live selfishly
2. Every believer should have a passion to be fruitful & effective
 - a. Out of these hearts – God is able to choose men for greater things
 1. David was blessing his family – later being a blessing to Saul; Called to greater things

PLEASING GOD THROUGH GOD'S WILL

A. The centerpiece of life is God's will

1. *Colossians 1:9* For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
2. Will = choice: God has chosen things/planned things to happen in our lives/through us!
 - a. Things God wants us to do:
 - b. **Places God wants us to be:** 30 years ago I went to a place I had never been – God's plan!
 - c. **People God wants us to impact:** Specific lives that we can change forever – rescue from hell

B. Every choice in life is a “will-of-God” choice

1. How will this choice affect God's will for my life?
 - a. Will it bring me closer to God's will – or farther away from it?

C. Ultimately we will answer to God about His will

1. Foolish to base your life on selfishness – about things that won't last!
2. We are eternal creatures: Our choices will remain forever!
 - a. *Matthew 25:21* His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.