

Our Firm Foundation on Pleasing God

Israel was the nation of God's chosen people, yet when they repeatedly displeased God, and did not live to please Him, He finally stopped blessing them as a nation and turned them over to heathen nations to be punished. The Church and all true Christians today are heir to the blessings of God, but few choose to serve Him in more than token ways. Many attend services to receive blessings, then leave to live as they please. But as we see the signs of Jesus' second coming we must wake up to the importance of pleasing Him or face the great Tribulation!

GOLDEN TEXT:

Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. John 15:8

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

John 14:21-24; John 15:1-10;
Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 13:15,16;
Romans 8:7,8; 1 John 3:22

JOHN 14:21-24

21 He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto Him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that Thou wilt manifest Thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love

him, and we will come to him and make our abode with Him.

24 He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings: and the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me.

JOHN 15:1-10

8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love.

10 If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

HEBREWS 11:6

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.

HEBREWS 13:15,16

15 By Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

ROMANS 8:7, 8

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 JOHN 3:22

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

INTRODUCTION:

It was God's good pleasure to create man to walk and talk with Him, but man habitually and continually chooses to forget God and to ignore His instructions, which He gave for our own good and peace. All true parents enjoy their children's love throughout their lifetime, but are hurt when the children seemingly forget that their parents exist. Worse yet, some children dare to defy their parents at every opportunity, to discredit them, even to lie about them, then have the nerve to come asking for help when they get into trouble and then again denounce their parents for having caused their problems. The parallel is striking! How many of us are wayward children of God? As a merciful Father, He forgives us over and over again, but finally, but when we continue to go our own way, He finally tires of it. *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but their foolish heart was darkened, (Romans 1:21). For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. (Romans 1:18).*



1. WHY SHOULD WE TRY TO PLEASE GOD?

a) As proof of our love for Him.

If ye love Me, keep My commandments. (*John 14:15*).

He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me:

(*John 14:21a*).

If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, (*John 14:23*).

It is a proven fact that if a man loves a woman, he will try to please her, and likewise the woman who loves her man tries to please him. The most fruitful of all reasons why children do things for their parents is because they love them and want to please them.

b) By pleasing God, we receive His love.

He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him. (*John 14:21*).

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our abode with Him. (*John 14:23*).

But doesn't God love me regardless of what I do? Until you came to know Him, you were a stranger who was not expected to know His love and goodness. In His mercy, grace and love, He loved you and wanted to help you and save you. When you believed His Word, Repented and were buried with Him in Baptism, arose to walk in newness of life (which was confirmed by your first cries in the heavenly language), you became an intimate part of His family, a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. Thereafter the loving Father/child relationship makes any rebellion on your part a painful thing for Him. Now you know His goodness but choose to spurn Him willfully. Continued rebellion may be so painful for Him that His wrath and punishment may be poured out, first to try to bring the wandering rebel back to Himself and finally, in judgement and destruction if the rebellion persists. (*See Hebrews 12:6.*)

2. HOW DOES THE BIBLE SAY WE CAN PLEASE GOD?

a) By obeying Jesus' commandments.

In the verses we have just read above, Jesus declares that if we truly love Him, we will keep His commandments. But what commandments? We already know that Jesus reaffirmed the Ten Commandments and declared that they were actually covered by the two, Love of God and Love of Neighbors. Finally, as He was ready to ascend into heaven, He gave the "Great Commission" to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. This commandment was not given only to the apostles, but to all those who were assembled at the event of Jesus' ascension of which Paul declares there were "above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain until this present [day], but some are fallen asleep." (*1 Corinthians 15:6*).

b) By bearing fruit.

I am the true vine, and My father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit... Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. (*John 15:1,2,8*).

This same thought is brought out in Jesus' parable of the sower. (*Matthew 13:3-9; Mark 4:3-8; Luke 8:5-8.*) The plants that bore fruit were those that fulfilled the purpose of the

sower and thus pleased Him. The whole purpose of sowing seed is to reap a harvest and the better the harvest, the greater the pleasure of the sower.

c) *By having faith.*

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. (*Hebrews 11:6*). If we lack faith, that is an indication that we do not believe the Word of God; and if man, who may be mistaken or lie, does not like to be disbelieved, how much more does our Heavenly Father dislike it when we refuse to believe Him! Every promise, every blessing of God comes in response to our believing His word and obeying it. It pleases the Lord when we take His word by faith and allow Him to grant the godly desires of our hearts.

d) *By communicating or sharing the goodness of God.*

By Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name.

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (*Hebrews 13:15,16*).

The word translated *communicate* in the above scripture is the Greek word *koinonia* which indicates a sharing as of good news or good things as well as to demonstrate or set an example. But what are we to communicate? The verse before says that we are to offer "the sacrifice of praise to God continually". The sacrifice or praise is not just shouting "Hallelujah", and "Praise the Lord", perhaps even when you don't really feel like it, but living in such a way that everyone who sees you knows that you are one who loves God and enjoys His blessings and so glorifies Him through the example you communicate. And this pleases God and brings His blessings to you.

e) *By walking so as to please Him.*

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 and more. (*1 Thessalonians 4:1*).

By *walk*, Paul means the way we live. He is telling the church in Thessalonika that they should walk with caring love toward the brethren (*1 Thessalonians 3:12*), and toward all men, in unblamable Holiness, which he has prayed for the Lord to give them the power and love to do. We know by many scriptures that God was always pleased and poured out His blessings on those who lived holy lives in obedience to His Word. A holy walk is so important, in fact, that we are warned to "Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (*Hebrews 12:14*).

SUMMARY:

There are more than forty (40) scriptures throughout the Bible which refer directly to the necessity of man pleasing God. Countless others let us know what we should do, what our attitudes need to be, what we should avoid and even how to express our appreciation to Him for His blessings if we want to please Him and see the windows of heaven opened in the blessings He waits to pour out upon us. In fact, by inference, the whole Bible, in its entirety, points the way to please our loving Savior and Lord. Thus, we can readily see the importance of this subject. By the example of Cain and Abel, where Abel was blessed because he pleased God to the Church of Philadelphia, which received God's blessings without any condemnation, God's word tells us His grace and mercy are abundant to those who "love Me and keep My commandments". (*Exodus 20:6*). Oh, that each one of us

would choose to please Him that loves us first and foremost and take our own pleasures of the blessings He bestows on those who please Him!

NOTES: