

What Pleases God

What pleases God? Man, in his attempt to provide answer to this question invented religious sacrifices, penance and endless offerings, and ministry which the Bible never prescribed or taught. People have been inventing works which they thought are acceptable and pleasing to God. The human soul is designed to be thirsty and hungry for God (Psalm 107:9, Isaiah 44:3), but Satan is always ready to give the thirsty and hungry souls with something that cannot really satisfy them, namely the things of the world.

Christians, who have reached the point of spiritual adulthood, will begin to have deep spiritual yearning for God (Psalms 42:2, Isaiah 63:1), which only God can satisfy. If the believer is looking in the wrong places of the world, the thirsty soul will become thirstier and never find satisfaction (John 4:14, 6:35, and 7:37). The cosmic system (see Tract No. 58) has invented numerous things to do to earn merits and acceptance before God.

Every cult in this planet has developed their own scheme on how to be pleasing to God. Religions have capitalized on this spiritual craving and have deceived many because of their wickedness. People wanted to be pleasing to God and are willing to pay whatever it may take. The cults capitalize on human desire to be pleasing to God and have earned a lot of money. Essentially, God is looking for souls that are willing to follow and obey Him. Souls that are eager to please Him rather than themselves or others.

There are three basic adjustments to the justice of God, which are also requirements to pleasing God:

- * Salvation
- * Rebound
- * Spiritual maturity

Without accepting the free gift of eternal life through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ no one can be pleasing or acceptable to God. Salvation adjusts the believer to the perfect justice of God, qualifies him for the splendid resources available only to believers and puts him in position of blessedness.

After salvation, the immature believers are always in danger of drifting into horrible carnality and therefore, displeasing God. The spiritual death of Jesus Christ provided salvation and the complete forgiveness for all the sins (Galatians 1:4, 14, Colossians 2:13) that we have committed (past, present and future). Both salvation and rebound are the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have nothing to contribute or add to it. Rebound is the grace provision for the restoration of the carnal believers to fellowship with God (see Tract No. 12).

The third adjustment to the justice of God is spiritual maturity. The believers enter the third adjustment to the justice of God through consistent, progressive and

systematic intake of Bible doctrine after breaking the maturity barrier. Every thing the spiritual mature believer does under the state of spirituality glorifies God. The spiritually mature believer thinks and acts on the basis of Bible doctrine (Hebrews 11:6, 13:16).

The Lord Jesus Christ is our example of a Man who pleases God (John 8:28-29, 2 Peter 1:17). The Lord Jesus Christ spent His 33 * years of perfect humanity inside the divine sphere, living under the power of the Holy Spirit and depending only on divine resources.

Basically, pleasing God is linked to our walk with God (1 Thess. 4:1) and to our obedience. Obedience is the execution of divine good works as the production of knowledge (epignosis) from the right lobe of the soul (Eph. 2:10). This is the fruit of spiritual maturity manifested through application of Bible doctrine into daily walk in the Christian life. Nominal Christianity advocates service, sacrifice, and ministerial work before doctrinal knowledge. They serve and worship God without knowing who and what God is. They are motivated by the power of the old sinful nature. You cannot love God whom you do not know. You cannot serve God whom you do not know. Therefore, spiritual growth and maturity comes before service or ministry. All spiritual services and works must be based on spiritual maturity (Eph. 2:10). Spirituality and maturity must form and shape our spiritual service and ministry.

Some people are serving and working for God in order to gain His approbation apart from spirituality and maturity.

Spiritual maturity refers to maximum Bible doctrine resident and functional in the soul (see Tract No. 10). It has nothing to do with the length of time as being member of the church, involvement and contribution in the ministry, or position in the church. Anybody can be actively involved in the church ministry while being apart from spirituality and spiritual maturity. The believer is pleasing before God through the merits earned by the Lord Jesus Christ not because of what he has done or what he has not done. The believers are accepted in the Beloved.

Pleasing God are the deeds that grow out of right attitude (1 John 3:18) or right response to God*s plan of grace. The only act or decision God can accept from unbelievers is the act responding to His gift of salvation. God is pleased to accept the non-meritorious faith of any person believing the salvation that Christ has earned for the human race. God is never pleased with all the sacrifices, work or ministries of the unbelievers.

Enoch many years before Moses penned his five books, but he reached spiritual maturity. This is a clear indication that every dispensation was provided with the Word of God necessary for their spiritual advancement and maturity (Gen. 5:21-24). Enoch obtained the testimony that before he was taken up he was pleasing to God. Pleasing to God in this context refers to spiritual maturity and living inside

the plan, purpose and will of God. Some of the things that does not please God are:

The absence of faith (Heb. 11:6)
 Living in the flesh (Rom 8:8)
 Pleasing men (Gal. 1:10)
 Religious shows (Micah 6:6-7)
 Mental attitude sins

The prophet Micah answered the question, what pleases God, (Micah 6:8): To do justice: Justice combined with righteousness is the integrity of God. Justice is the contact point between man and God. It refers to human adjustment to God in three phases: salvation, rebound and spiritual maturity. Divine righteousness is imputed to people at the point of salvation, which is the basis of God's unwavering acceptance of all believers. That imputed righteousness is our access key to God.

To love kindness: This is a Hebrew metaphor referring to virtue love toward others. Kindness in this perspective is a virtue produced by spiritual maturity. The advancing believer has already reached the point of deeper understanding of God*s grace through Bible doctrine. His knowledge of divine essence formed his personal love toward God which shapes his impersonal love for others.

To walk humbly with God: Refers to a genuine humility combined with reverential fear that motivates the believer to obey the plan and purpose of God. Reverential fear is developed by Bible doctrine applied as confidence toward God and courage toward men and circumstances. Genuine humility is respect for God manifested as respect for the Bible doctrine. We are living in the age of open disrespect for God and of His Word. Christians are openly using the name of the Lord in vain Exodus 20:7).

Irreverence for the Word of God like sleeping during Bible study (see Tract No. 30), coming late, disturbing others from their focus or attentive listening are not considered by many believers as sin. Divided attention during the preaching of Bible doctrine, the inability to focus the mind on the Word of God, the lack of concentration is mental attitude sin of negative volition.

Through Him (Jesus Christ) then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips (the product of spiritual maturity) that give thanks to His name (understanding of God*s plan of grace). And do not neglect doing good (divine good work) and sharing; (the imputed blessings) for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 15:15-16).

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