



# Planned for God's Pleasure

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## Chapters 8 & 9

Notes: This Bible Study is intended to be a companion to "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. The Scripture references in this Bible study are taken from the New King James Version.

### Chapter 8 – Planned for God's Pleasure

Our key Scripture passages for this chapter are:

Revelation 4:11 - You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

Psalms 149:4 - the LORD takes pleasure in His people

#### **Why should no Christian have an inferiority complex?**

In all of this vast universe, we have sufficient value in the eyes of God that He wants to preserve us for eternity. This is what gives us our significance and is what pleases God...

Ephesians 1:4-5 – He chose us... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will

#### **What is pleasure?**

Pleasure is a state of gratification, delight, or joy.

#### **Why are we able to experience pleasure?**

The capacity to experience pleasure is a gift of God. He designed us with five senses and emotions so that we can know pleasure. God experiences pleasure and He has made it possible for us to experience pleasure as well. This is another aspect to being created in the image of God.

#### **Is God emotional?**

We don't usually think of God this way but the Bible describes many emotions that God has: He grieves, gets jealous, angry, feels compassion, pity, sorrow, sympathy... God loves, delights, gets pleasure, rejoices, enjoys and even laughs...

Psalms 37:12-13 - The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming.

#### **How may we bring pleasure to God?**

We bring pleasure to God when we worship Him...

Psalms 147:11 - The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.

#### **What does it mean to fear God?**

Fearing God means to respect Him for who He is.

#### **How is fearing God the same as worshipping Him?**

If we respect God for who He is, we will worship Him because He deserves worship and that means we will obey Him.

#### **Are people natural worshippers?**

Yes, anthropologists have observed that people have an urge to worship, a universal inbuilt desire to connect with God.

#### **What do people worship if they do not worship God?**

People will always find a substitute for God: money, pleasure, an ideology, themselves... all this is idolatry, worshipping the creation instead of the Creator.

#### **Why did God wire us with an inbuilt desire to worship Him?**

God wants our worship, that is why He built us with this desire...

John 4:23 - the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

#### **How do people limit what constitutes worship?**

To many people, worship is only what they do on Sunday mornings during a church service: singing, praying, communion, and listening to a sermon.

#### **Why shouldn't we limit our perspective of worship to what we do on Sunday mornings?**

We should consider worship to be a lifestyle. Worship is a verb, it is all the things we do to please God. It is better to think in terms of worshipING rather than just worship.

#### **What is wrong with saying or thinking, "I didn't get anything out of worship today?"**

You're not supposed to get anything out of worship, it is not for you, worship is for God. Of course worship services also include elements of fellowship and edification that do benefit us but we should not think that we are worshipping to please ourselves.

### **What is the proper motivation to worship God?**

The proper attitude for worship is to please God. We worship Him out of gratitude for all that He has done for us. We please God by our passion and commitment not by our lip-service:

Isaiah 29:13 - Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men

### **Which part of our lives should we dedicate to worshipping God?**

All of it!

1 Corinthians 10:31 - whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

### **How is it possible to do everything for the glory of God?**

Do whatever you do as if you were doing it for Jesus and carrying on a conversation with Him while you are doing it.

Colossians 3:23 - whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men

I like the bumper sticker, "My Moss is a Jewish Carpenter."

### **How will doing everything for Jesus help us grow closer to Him?**

You will naturally grow closer to whoever is on your mind. Jesus desires this kind of close relationship with us, indeed, we are commanded to fall in love with Him...

John 15:9-10 - As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love

### **What common task could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Jesus?**

**Sitting down** – thanking God for the seat and the opportunity.

**Brushing my teeth** – Praying that the Lord would help me do a good job so that I may be a good steward of this body He gave me and that the preservation of my teeth would please Him.

**Sending a message at work** – praying that the Lord would see pleasure in my creating a response that brings order to the world. Also that this message will contribute to my being seen by others as a good employee so that I may be effective in my witness of Him (Lord, please use this to extend your kingdom).

## **Chapter 9 – What Makes God Smile?**

### **If our first purpose in life is to please God, what must we do before we can begin to please Him?**

Besides enter into a relationship with Him, we should first understand what pleases Him...

Ephesians 5:8-10 - Walk as children of light... finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

### **What is the best thing we can do to please God?**

The greatest thing we can do to please God is obey Him and Jesus said the greatest commandment is to Love Him...

Matthew 22:36-38 - Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment."

### **Noah is used in this chapter as an example of someone who pleased God. What does the following passage tell us about how we may please God?**

Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (NKJ)

Noah became an heir of righteousness because he trusted God completely

### **What does it mean to trust God completely?**

Trusting God completely means having faith that God knows what is best for you. You know that God will keep His promises, helping you with difficulties, and doing the impossible when necessary.

### **In what areas of your life do you need to trust God completely? Did God convict any of you with something you'd like to share?**

I know I need to be better at trusting that God will prepare the hearts of people He has brought into my life to share the gospel with.

### **Since God knows what is best and commands us to put our trust in Him, in what areas of my life do I need to trust Him the most?**

I need to trust God more in my everyday, routine activities. I need to trust that God is involved in these everyday, routine activities and that unexpected problems happen for a reason that serves His purpose.

### **What does the following passage tell us about how we may please God?**

Genesis 6:22 - Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

### **What does this verse tell us about the attitude of Noah?**

Noah did exactly what God told Him to do, he obeyed God wholeheartedly. We please God by our attention to detail in His instructions to us.

### **Why isn't putting off things God tells you to do a good idea?**

Every parent knows that delayed obedience is really disobedience.

### **Which should have higher priority, understanding why God wants you to do something or doing it?**

Understanding can wait but obedience can not wait. In fact, the reason for some commands can not be understood until you obey them first. God reveals to us what we need to know and there are some things we just do not need to know.

### **What does John 14:15 have to say about why obedience pleases God?**

John 14:15 - If you love Me, keep My commandments. Obedience proves that we love God. Love is not an emotion, it is an act of the will and obedience is the evidence of that act.

### **What does the following passage tell us about how we may please God?**

Genesis 8:20 - Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Noah expressed his thanks to God for what He had done for him.

### **Why don't we sacrifice animals today out of thanksgiving to God?**

Because all the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament times were symbolic, pointing to the sacrifice that Jesus Himself made on the cross. Since then, animal sacrifices are not necessary.

### **So how do we give thanks to God today?**

We thank God by making the sacrifice of praise, proclaiming who He is...

Hebrews 13:15 - let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

We thank God by making the sacrifice of thanksgiving, proclaiming what He has done...

Psalms 116:17 - I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

Even in Old Testament times, praising the name of God was more important than an animal sacrifice...

Psalms 69:30-31 - I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bull, which has horns and hooves.

### **Why does giving thanks to God please Him?**

As a mom likes to see her kids enjoying a meal she has prepared for them, it is even more pleasurable to her if they praise her for the good meal.

### **What does the following passage tell us about how we may please God?**

Genesis 9:1 - So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. This command is reminiscent of the command God gave to Adam and Eve...

Genesis 1:28 - Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God told Noah and his family to get on with life doing what He had designed humans to do. God give us abilities and it pleases Him when we use these abilities to be creative and join with Him in sustaining creation.

### **Is there any detail about our lives that God is not interested in?**

You've heard the expression that the devil is in the details, well the truth is that God is in the details. God cares about the most insignificant details about our lives...

Psalms 37:23 - The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

God takes pleasure in every step we take that serves His purpose and God watches everything we do...

Psalm 33:15 - He fashions their hearts individually; he considers all their works.

### **What does the following passage tell us about how we may please God?**

1 Timothy 6:17 - God... gives us richly all things to enjoy.

God intends for us to enjoy His creation. That is why He gave us senses to take pleasure in the things of this world. He just doesn't want us to be so consumed in the things of this world that we neglect Him.

### **How can God enjoy us in our spiritually immature condition?**

Parents don't need their children to be perfect little adults to enjoy them, they enjoy them at every stage of development. Likewise, God enjoys seeing us develop and takes pleasure in our progress.