**THINGS WHICH PLEASE GOD**

**1 Thessalonians 4:1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Please defined: To be agreeable to; give pleasure to; satisfy [Webster’s Dictionary].

A. In Paul’s usage, “…how ye ought to walk and to please God, *so* ye would abound…”.

2. Some structural use of “please” is found approximately 106 times in the Bible.

A. The word, “menpleasers” which will be a part of our lesson (Eph 6:6; Col 3:22).

3. Relating [it] to our relationship with God, has a definite impact, both now and futuristic.

**BODY:**

**1. THE BIBLE PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON PLEASING GOD**

A. That’s what Christianity is all about (1 The 4:1).

1. The encouragement to “abound more and more” as [we] seek to please God.

B. Pleasing God was Christ’s ultimate goal and mission (Jn 8:29).

C. Enoch’s life was consumed with “pleasing” God (Heb 11:5).

D. Receiving an answer to prayer hinges upon our “pleasing” God (1 Jn 3:22).

E. The Bible ***NOT*** only tells us what [pleases] God, but what [displeases] Him.

1. Let’s evaluate the things that please Him and avoid those things that do ***NOT***.

**2. THINGS WHICH DISPLEASES GOD**

A. “They that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom 8:8).

1. By this Paul means living to satisfy the flesh prevents one from pleasing God

A. Rom 8:5 – 8; Gal 5:19, 20

1. To do these things is to displease God.

B. The “Backslider” does ***NOT*** please God (1 Cor 10:5).

1. Those of whom Paul referenced here had been “baptized unto Moses”, then

“Murmured”, then committed fornication and idolatry.

2. Serve as an “example” for Christians ***NOT*** to “lust after evil things” (1 Cor 10:6).

3. Jesus warned against “Backsliding” (Lk 9:62).

C. Withholding the Word of God displeases Him (1 The 2:15, 16).

1. Elymas was guilty of this (Ac 13:8).

2. The scribes and Pharisees “shut up the kingdom of heaven” by doing so (Mt 23:13).

3. [We] would ***NOT*** aggressively withhold the Word, **BUT** fail to preach or teach it?

4. A religion designed to please men (Gal 1:10).

A. Doing the right thing for the wrong motive.

B. Doing “unauthorized” things, such as replacing baptism with sprinkling, mechanical instruments of music.

D. Pleasing self displeases God (Rom 15:1 – 3).

E. There are things God hates bringing displeasure to Him (Pro 6:16 – 19).

**3. THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD**

A. Preaching the Word (1 Cor 1:21).

1. Jesus commanded that it be preached to every creature (Mk l6:15).

2. Paul told Timothy to “Preach the word” (2 Tim 4:2). Are [we] pleasing in this area?

B. Doing good works, if done in His Name and for His Glory ( Mt 5:16; 7:21–23; Col 1:10).

1. Example of good works (Mt 25:34 – 36; Jas 1:27).

2. God has ordained [we] should walk in good works (Eph 2:10).

C. Increasing in knowledge pleases God (Col 1:10; 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Pet 3:18).

D. Worshipping God in song and thanksgiving pleases Him (Psa 69:30, 31).

E. Obeying your parents pleases God (Col 3:20).