

For Christ's Sake, Please God!

This is not a blasphemous or irreverent statement! Ask yourself the question that Paul presented to the Church in Galatia.

Galatians 1:9, 10, "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or, Am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Jesus Christ."

For the sake of the Son of God....Don't try to please men, but try to please God!

We look at the Word of God for our strength....We look to the Word of God for our confidence....Why not look at the Word of God to find out how to please Him?

Pleasing God is the most profitable thing a man can do.

Let's look first at:

❖ **THOSE WHO ARE NOT PLEASING GOD.**

Who are they?

- **They That Live For Themselves.**

Romans 15:1-3 tells us that we ought not to please ourselves, for even Christ pleased not Himself.

He "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister..."

Matthew 20:28.

"Self" is all the God they worship. "Self" is their satisfaction.

Those that are wrapped up in themselves cannot properly worship God.

- **They That Seek to Please Men Are Not Pleasing God.**

James 4:4, "...a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Whether it is the Pharisees in Jesus' time, or the person that loves the worldly things of today, you cannot be a friend to the world of sin and this world of wickedness!

- **They That Are in the Flesh (Controlled by the Sinful nature) Romans 8:8.**

Paul said in Philippians 3:3, "We...have no confidence in the flesh."

Romans 8:9: "But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit..."

Carnal lives cannot please God.

- **They That Have No Faith.**

Hebrews 11:6: *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him.....”*

Christ is always pleased when He sees faith.

- **They That Refuse to Listen to God.**

Conduct that is rebellious; God defiant.

Our heavenly Father invites us to *“Come, now let us reason together.....”* Isaiah 1:18

Rebellion seen in:

- ✓ **Their Refusal to Listen...**

Zechariah 7:11-13.... *“They refused to hearken”*

When the creature refuses to hear his creator, he is on dangerous ground.

- ❖ *“Turn away their ears from the truth, and....”* 2 Timothy 4:4.

- ❖ **It is very rude to refuse to hear a father, mother, pastor, teacher, but how awful and sinful to refuse to hearken to the voice of God.**

- ✓ **Their Rejection of God’s Advice.** *“...they turned their backs....”*

God said, “Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded.....I will laugh at your calamity....mock when....” Proverbs 1:24-28 (Excerpts from the passage).

- ❖ *“.....many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”* John 6:66.

- ❖ They withdrew their obedience to Him! They spurned His counsel.

- ✓ **Their Decision to Close their Means of Communication.**

“....they stopped up their ears...”

They were determined to shut out God’s message. It was reckless, presumptuous, and....basically, a poor decision.

- ❖ The men who killed Stephen “stopped their ears.” Acts 7:57... They did not want to hear his Spirit-anointed words.

- ❖ Jesus said to all of the seven churches of Revelation, *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith to the churches....”* Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Rev. 3:6, 13, 22.

These scriptures show the importance of open ears and receptive hearts to the voice of God.

- ✓ **Their Hardened Hearts.**

“...they made their hearts as hard as flint (an adamant stone)....”

Adamant...Webster: the hardest metal; impenetrably hard.

- ❖ The Holy Ghost said, *“Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts....” Hebrews 3:7.8*
 - ❖ Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 17:9, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked....”*
 - ❖ Job said, *“.....God makes my heart soft” Job 23:16.*
- ✓ **Their Attitude and Action....That Caused God to Refuse to Hear Their Cries.**

‘When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the Lord Almighty.

V. 13.

❖ *“Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me.” Proverbs 1:28. Why does God refuse to hear them? The answer is in the next verse (29)... “For they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.”*

❖ **If we close God out, He will close us out.**

NOW...LET US LOOK AT:

THOSE THAT ARE PLEASING GOD!

Who Are They?

- **Those Who Ask Right Things from the Lord.**
1 Kings 3:9; “And the speech pleased the Lord....”
Solomon asked for an understanding heart to discern between good and bad, and the speech please the Lord. God said in verse 13, “I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches and honor.”
- **The Separated Unto God.**
“No one serves as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs....he wants to please his commanding officer.”
2 Timothy 2:4.
God want us to be a separated people...2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Titus 2:11-18. *“A people that separates themselves from wickedness.....”*

- **The Wholly Yielded.**
Hebrews 13:21; “.....working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight....”
Romans 12:1; “Present your bodies a living sacrifice....holy, pleasing (acceptable) to God...”
Wait
Not so in haste, my heart;
Have faith in God, and wait;
Although He linger long,
He never comes too late.
- **Those Who Walk With God.**
“Enoch walked with God....” Genesis 5:24
“....He had this testimony that he pleased God.”
Hebrews 11:5.
Let your walk and talk match....and let it please God.
- **Those Who Praise God.**
“I will praise the name of God....this shall please the Lord.” Psalm 69:30, 31.
“While I live I will praise the Lord....” Psalm 146:2.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO PLEASE GOD.

- **His Enemies Will Be At Peace With Him.**
Proverbs 16:7; “When a man’s ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”
- **His Prayers Shall Be Answered.**
1 John 3:22; “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”
- **He Will Have an Everlasting Name.**
Isaiah 56:4, 5; “Choose the things that please me....and I will give them an everlasting name...”

Conclusion: The Truth in Scripture Prepares Us for Our Journey

2 Corinthians 5:9, 10; “So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body...whether good or bad.”

Paul stated in 1 Thessalonians 4:1, “Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God....and you are to live like it!

Do you want to appease men....or please God?

Walk in His ways....You will never regret it.