

## Daniel Perrin – L3: To Be Pleasing To God – Tuesday, January 14: Pleasing God?

1. Do you want to please God?
  - NOW, DO YOU please God?
  - Does God love you?
  - Does He forgive you?
  - WHY are we reluctant to say, “I please God” / “God is pleased with me” / “God is WELL-pleased with me”
    - In order to please God, I’d probably need to be perfect
    - Anything less than the perfect standard couldn’t please a perfect God, right?
2. The Bible is clear that God can be both pleased and displeased
  - **Psalm 149:4** – *For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.*
    - **Proverbs 15:8-9** – *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.<sup>9</sup> The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness.*
    - **Hebrews 11:5-6** – *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.<sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
  - God is AFFECTED by us
    - There is an intricate / intimate connection with Heaven that penetrates to the very THRONE in Heaven – and all Heaven takes pleasure ... in ME (sometimes)
  - We have a role in what pleases God
    - **2 Corinthians 5:9** – *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.*
    - **1 Thessalonians 4:1** – *Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God*
    - **Colossians 3:20** – *Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.*
3. WHAT PLEASES GOD? – NOT human pleasure
4. God IS Love – **1 John 4:8**
  - Self-giving / His joy and purpose is giving (divine giving)
  - What pleases God is when we RECEIVE His love (RECEIVE HIM) – we count Him as God / life-giver / sole-sustainer / the One who meets needs
  - There is no pleasure in gifts scorned and refused
  - We receive a RELATIONSHIP with Him
  - That pleases God — To be enjoyed / To be glorified / desired — pleases Him
5. **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.”*
  - VERY GOOD – Nothing UNpleasant or revolting – FOR HUMANITY OR FOR HIM
  - God was pleased – BECAUSE Humanity was United in Relationship with Him – receiving ALL the benefits of His love — Relationship Unobstructed
6. Leviticus describes the sacrifices as a “sweet savor” / “sweet aroma” / “pleasing aroma”
  - Why would the smell of burning flesh be sweet and pleasant to God?
  - BECAUSE the sacrifices were made in faith as a symbol of the trusting in the life/death/work of Jesus to remove sin / cleanse the sinner / AND restore the relationship that had been broken by sin

- To this, God says, **“YES! They will receive me** — God is love / when we accept salvation through Jesus, we receive love / receive Him
    - We pass over from death to life and can experience — Life with God
  - AND HE is pleased, because *He* can experience life with You
    - That’s what He made You for / That pleases Him
7. **Psalm 16:11** –*You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
- What does this text mean?
  - This is Eden restored / No obstruction in relationship with Him
  - You are pleased with His presence — receiving what comes from Him (Love)
    - HE is pleased with Loving You
8. God’s covenant was HIS idea
- His Covenant pleases Him / He wants it / He gives it to us as a gift
    - His Covenant pleases Him — Being in a relationship (covenant relationship) with us PLEASES HIM
9. **THEN**, the pleasing fruit begins to form / mature / ripen / harvest IN OUR LIVES
- The pleasing fruit is the RESULT of being United With God
  - **John 1:12** – *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God*

**Isaiah 43:4** – *Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life.*