

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Pleasing

"Happiness depends upon two things – pleasing God, and then pleasing yourself." – Anonymous

"Life is too short to spend it trying to keep everyone happy. Keep your focus on pleasing God." – Anonymous

"It's not worth trying to please others when all they look at is outward appearance, work on pleasing God, He looks at your heart." – Anonymous

"If you want a godly relationship, you're going to have to pay the price for it. You must be disciplined, focused and bent on pleasing God." – Anonymous

"If we displease God, does it matter whom we please? If we please Him does it matter whom we displease?" – Leonard Ravenhill, *Why Revival Tarries: A Classic on Revival*

In Paul's letter to the churches of Galatia, he states, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). The Greek bears out the idea of being "agreeable". The modern definition of pleasing is, "Good in a way that gives pleasure or enjoyment: attractive or appealing." (Webster)

We like to make people happy as we want acceptance. But you cannot always get the approval that you desire. So many struggle with this and seem to work overtime trying to gain the acceptance of others. Actor Robert Mitchum once said, "There just isn't any pleasing some people. The trick is to stop trying."

As badly as we may want the approval of others, it is more important to have the blessing of God. "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22).

There is a phrase used repeatedly in Scripture that would be a worthy goal for every Christian. It is the phrase, "well pleasing". "...well pleasing to Him" (2 Cor. 5:9). "...well pleasing to God" (Phil. 4:18). "...well pleasing in all things..." (Titus 2:9). "...well pleasing in His sight..." (Heb. 13:21). This is a phrase from the Greek word signifying "fully agreeable".

When we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, we are definitely going to want to have pleased God more than man. Jesus said, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28).

Man cannot afford to us salvation. That is only possibly through Jesus Christ. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..." (Rom. 8:1).