The Abounding Christian

(Selected Scriptures)
8/15/04

Introduction:
Abundant Life is what our Savior came to give us.

Despite our failures of the past, we can make strides and progress forward by God's grace and power.

Eph 4:16 & Col 2:19

**** Our God wants us to positively abound in all areas of life.***
We will focus on 3:

I. *God wants His People to* ABOUND IN <u>LOVE</u>

(1 Thess. 3:12; Phil. 1:9)

1 Thes. 3:12
And the Lord make you to <u>increase and abound in love</u> one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

II. *God wants His People to* ABOUND IN <u>GIVING</u>

(2 Cor. 8:7; Phil. 4:17)

2 Cor. 8:7
Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, <u>see that ye abound in this grace</u> <u>(of giving)</u> also.

III. *God wants His People to* ABOUND IN <u>PLEASING HIM</u>

(1 Thess. 4:1)

1 Thes. 4:1- Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to <u>please God, so ye would abound more and more</u>.

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Introduction:
Abundant Life is what our Savior came to give us.

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The Christian Life is not one of retreat; stagnancy; or static growth. We are not to be standing still but growing. God's people can grow out of complacency. Despite our failures of the past, we can make strides and progress forward by God's grace and power.

Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

**** Our God wants us to positively abound in all areas of life.***
We will focus on 3:

I. *God wants His People to* ABOUND IN LOVE

(1 Thess. 3:12; Phil. 1:9)

1 Thes. 3:12
And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

Love is not static. It does not remain the same. Our love will either increase or decrease with time.

Jesus warned that in the last days – "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." (Matthew 24:12)

Not only must we ask God to help us do what we can do, but we need to trust God to do what we can't do!

Paul depended upon God to increase their love.

NOTE: Paul prayed for their love to increase. What does this mean?

It means that we cannot manufacture our own love. God must give it to us. God is love! (I Jn. 4:8). We need God to teach us to love (SEE I Th. 4:9, 10 - "...Taught of God...")

Make this a prayer request for yourself and others!

"Abound" = overflow, exceed

Paul didn't merely pray for them to love each other, but that they would really love!

That God would give them more love toward each other and toward the lost.

Your love not only benefits others, it benefits yourself!

1) When you love, it strengthens your heart. You will be so strong that you will endure anything for the benefit of others.

2) When you love, it produces holiness (love fulfills the law. When you love, you won't steal, lie, covet, commit adultery, etc.)

Our church is called "the church with a heart in the heart of Queens."

May we live up to this slogan.

Philip. 1:9
And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

All of God's people have love. We are taught of God to love.

1Th 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

"God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us" (Rom.5:5).

love is the "spiritual lubrication" that keeps the machinery of human relationships running smoothly (without friction)

"Judgement" = insight, perception, discernment. A deep insight, good judgment in making proper decisions.

1. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT IN LOVING (v.10a)
"approve...excellent"
to discern the mind of God and love like Christ (cp.v8)
Biblical love is not blind! It is discerning.

The heart (loving) and mind (thinking) work together so that we have discerning love & a loving discernment. Wiersbe p.26.

2. PURE MOTIVES IN LOVING (v.10b)
"sincere" - some translate it "tested by sunlight" It describes one who is not afraid to stand in the light, because you have nothing to hide! Your love is genuine. No false motives. Cp.2:3 "let nothing be done through strife or vain glory..."

a. Motivated <u>by</u> Jesus Christ (the source of love) (v.11a)

b. Motivated <u>for</u> God's glory & praise (the purpose for loving) (v.11b)

Love is the Christians Greatest pursuit: 1 Corinthians 13

*** Biblical LOVE must be the supreme characteristic of our lives.**

Why?
3 Reasons:

1. BIBLICAL LOVE IS AN <u>ESSENTIAL</u> VIRTUE (v. 1-3)
- A. Without love your <u>message</u> accomplishes nothing (v. 1)
- B. Without love your <u>gifts</u> (abilities) reveal you to be nothing (v. 2)
- C. Without love your <u>sacrifice</u> profits you nothing (v. 3)

2. BIBLICAL LOVE IS AN <u>EXALTED</u> VIRTUE (v. 4-7)
- A. Biblical love is not <u>self-centered</u> (v. 4b-5a)
- B. Biblical love does <u>not seek the harm of others</u> (v. 5b-6a)
- C. Biblical love seeks <u>the well-being of others</u> (v. 4a, 7)

3. BIBLICAL LOVE IS AN <u>ETERNAL</u> VIRTUE (v. 8-13)
- A. Love will outlast <u>gifts</u> (v. 8)
- B. Love will outlast <u>present limitations</u> (v.9-12)
- C. Love will outlast <u>some present spiritual virtues</u> (v.13)

II. *God wants His People to* ABOUND IN <u>GIVING</u>
(2 Cor. 8:7; Phil. 4:17)

2 Cor. 8:7
Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace *(of giving)* ***also.***

Philip. 4:17
Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

2Co 9:6 But this I say, He which <u>soweth</u> sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which <u>soweth</u> bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

See: 2 Corinthians 8:1-12; 9:6-12

"A story is told about a man who, after twenty years of marriage, decided to divorce his wife. In preparing for the financial settlement, he began to rummage through his old checks.

"One canceled check after another stirred up memories of a long-forgotten past: the check to the hotel where he and his wife had spent their honeymoon, the check for their first car, the check for the hospital bill for their daughter's birth, the check for the $2,000 down payment on their first home.

"Finally, he could stand it no longer. He pushed the checks aside, reached for the telephone, and called his wife. Telling her they had invested too much in each other to throw it all away, he asked her to start over with him in a fresh beginning.

"Our own checkbook also tells the story of our life—our values and our lifestyle. And more than almost anything else, that checkbook reveals our true walk with God. Because our checkbook announces what our treasures are."

(Chuck Swindoll, "A Minister Everyone Would Respect," Bible Study Guide of 2 Cor. 8-13, <u>Insight for Living</u>)

The way you manage God's money is:

a. A tool - to be a blessing – with it you can build something of lasting value

b. A test - of your spirituality – Show me your checkbook and I can see where your priorities are; "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also"

c. A testimony - to glorify God

God owns it all (Ps. 24:1; Job 41:11)

If I really believe that God owns everything . . .

1) When I lose a possession, I realize that He has the right to take it anytime He wants.

2) I own nothing, but am a temporary manager (steward) of all that God has entrusted to my care.

3) Then I must conclude that my giving is a spiritual matter.

4) I can rest assured that God has the resources and power to supply my every need.

A whole year had passed between the writing of 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. A year prior, the Corinthians were exhorted to help the needy church at Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1-4). In response to that Epistle, they stated their eagerness to send a big offering to help the Lord's work and people. Now Paul admonishes them to follow through in their decision.

1. Give SACRIFICIALLY
("in a great trial of affliction…and their deep poverty" – 2 Cor. 8:1-4)

8:1
To encourage the Corinthians in their giving, Paul uses the churches of Macedonia as an example of sacrificial giving.

Paul is careful to note that their desire and ability to give was based not on their natural goodness, but on "the grace of God" (v. 1; cp. V. 7).

To God be the glory for our ability even to give when we don't have an over-abundance of resources.
8:2

The Christians of Macedonia did not have big, fat bank accounts from which to give. As a matter of face, they were severely strapped with tight financial pressure ("affliction" – *thipsis*) themselves. Yet they had a deep well of joy, and they scraped deeply from the "bottom of the barrel" and accumulated a tremendous offering.

8:3
They (seeming supernaturally) gave beyond their ability. Sacrifice is not measured by the size of your gift, but by the size of what you had to give from and from the size of what you have left over.

The bigness of our giving is determined by the size of resources that we have to begin with.

What determines the sacrifice of your giving is not the amount you give, but the amount you have left after you give (EX: the widow's mite; see: Mark 12:41-44)

"Many say, 'If only I had more, I would give.' A preacher went to see a farmer and asked, 'If you had $200, would you give $100 to the Lord?' 'I would.' He answered. 'If you had two cows, would you give one of them to the Lord' 'Sure.' 'If you had two pigs, would you give one of them to the Lord?' The farmer said, 'Now that isn't fair. You know I have two pigs.'" (Hughs, p. 95, "Moody" June 1983).

8:4
Paul is implying that he, knowing their low financial status, did not expect them to give of their last denari. But they urged him to take the offering and give it to the Jerusalem church.

8:5
They gave more that was expected ("not as we hoped".

How could they go beyond what Paul anticipated? Answer: They first surrendered themselves to the Lord (Rom. 12:1-2), and then they yielded their lives to serve with Paul and God's servants.

2. Give <u>WILLINGLY</u>

("if there be first a willing mind" – 8:11-12)

8:12
It's not ability that God is looking for, but <u>availability</u>!

God accepts and uses even what we do not have. He can do a great work through you (though you may think you have little or nothing to offer Him). What you must have, however, is a "willing mind" – a desire to be used!

> Exodus 25:1-2
> And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [2] Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.
>
> Exodus 35:5
> Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass,
>
> Exodus 35:21
> And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.

The best investment is the investment in best thing! (What is better than the Lord's work in reaching souls with he Gospel?)

3. Give <u>BOUNTIFULLY</u>

("soweth bountifully" – 9:6)

Sowing little = reaping little.
Example: Haggai 1:6, 9

1 Samuel 2:30
Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

God's law of the harvest:

If you plant little, you harvest little; if you plant much, you harvest much.

"Sparingly" = in a miserly manner

"Bountifully" = generously; lit. to give with showers of <u>blessing</u>, to freely and profusely pour out blessing.

Proverbs 22:9
He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

4. Give <u>RESOLUTELY</u>
("according as he purposeth in his heart" – 9:7a)

"According as he purposeth in his heart" –

"Purposeth" – to determine beforehand; to deliberately choose or decide what you will give.

Our giving should not be haphazard, spur of the moment, or without any planning. God expects us to give in a deliberate, planned manner.

5. Give <u>CHEERFULLY</u>

("God loveth a cheerful giver" – 9:7b)

"Not grudgingly" – not with grief or reluctance; not with an "I'll do it, but I don't want to" attitude.

Is it a pain to give? Do you cringe as you write the offering check?

"If you find yourself giving with a tight fist, the problem is probably deeper than your wallet." (Swindoll, p. 4).

"Nor of necessity" – not of a feeling of compulsion, not pressured into giving. God does not want our giving to be a mere "duty", but a joy. Not an "I have to," but an "I want to." Not a legalistic "I must give," but a loving "I am glad to give."

"Giving, like the rest of the Christian life, is not to be done out of rote obedience to law or out of pressure from others. It is a matter of the heart." (Swindoll, p. 3).

Do you view giving as a mere regimented obligation or a joyful privilege?

"A cheerful giver" –

"Cheerful" = *hilaros* – from which we derive our English word "hilarious."

God appreciates our giving with a smile, joyful sacrifice, not a cringing giving.

2 Chron. 24:10
And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

6. Give <u>EXPECTANTLY</u>

("God is able to make all grace abound toward you" – 9:8-12)

9:8
God does <u>not</u> merely give to us, so that we might supply our needs and pay our bills.

The ultimate reason God gives to us is so that we would give to others. God (through various means) gets His resources to us so that we in turn might share of that resource with others in need.

9:10
"Multiply your seed sown" – God does not use the math of addition to repay the giver. He uses multiplication!

He does not parcel back to us the exact number of seeds we planted, but He multiplies the number of seeds by whatever generous number He chooses and repays with abundance. He does "exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think."

Receiving from God should not be the reason we give, but it will be the result.

A. Expect God to <u>give back</u> to you (v.8-10)

God pays us back on <u>EARTH</u>:

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again

Ex. The widow of Zarephath: I Kings 17:7-f

God pays us back in <u>HEAVEN</u>:

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.
Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

You reap for what you sowed:

Galatians 6:7 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man
soweth, that shall he also reap.
2Corinthians 9:6 - But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
Proverbs 11:24-25 - There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
Proverbs 28:27- He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.
Ecclesiastes 11:1 - Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
Galatians 6:7

Many fear that if they give, they will lack the needed money to pay their bills.
If you have a big bill with Sears & Robuck and say: "I can't give to God!" Remember this: Sears will not help you pay God! But God will help you pay Sears! (Put God first!) It's a matter of perspective.

One reason why many struggle to "make ends meet" may be because they are not faithful stewards with what God gave hem. He gives you little because you cannot be trusted with much" (Luke 16:10-11 - *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. [11] If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

Ex. J.C. Penney

ILLUS: I know a couple who bought a new home and found

that it was difficult to make all their bills each month. It seemed that every month, they would have to take from their savings account to pay all the bills. So, the man sat down with his wife and said, 'As you know, we don't have enough money coming in to meet all our bills each month, so the answer is, we're going to start giving more to God.' 'What!' she exclaimed, 'How will that help?' But that is what they did, and within a few months, she had received a promotion and pay increase and he had been given a huge raise. Now they can easily pay their bills, and have even more money to give to God!

B. Expect God to be glorified (v.11-12)

It is important to remember that it is God who supplies the believer's needs, but He works through human instruments.

Oftentimes, when our necessities are not provided, it is because someone has failed to respond to the leading of the Lord.

God never intends for any ministry to be hindered because of a lack of funds. Disobedient Christians are to be blamed.

9:15 – The ultimate gift, the most sacrificial gift, the most costly gift was that of God giving His son, so that we might have the gift of eternal life!

III. *God wants His People to* ABOUND IN PLEASING HIM

(1 Thess. 4:1)

1 Thes. 4:1

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Contrary to the lost world, we don't "walk" with a view to obtaining the maximum amount of satisfaction for ourselves, but to please our Lord.

If you love the Lord, you will do that which pleases Him.

In the last days, "men will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

The world seeks to get pleasure; the Christian seeks to give it.

We must conduct our lives in a way that pleases God. Are you more interested in God's pleasure than your own?

"To please God" is the goal of the way we live. (walk)

In this context, the pleasing of God involves pleasing Him in our sanctification or sexual purity.

Our primary goal is not to keep ourselves pure so that:

1) We can offer ourselves pure to our spouse at the wedding altar (though this is a noble and praise-worthy reason) - but to please God.

2) We won't ruin our lives and the lives of others who are watching us - but to please God.

3) We won't get AIDS or other communicable diseases - but to please God!

Joseph said: "how then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9)

Our primary desire in life ought to be to please God.

Is that your desire?

If it is, you will say to yourself:
"I can't look at pornography, I want to please God."
"I can't look at women with lust in my heart, I want to please God."
"I can't read Harlequin romance books, I want to please God."
"I can't commit fornication or adultery, I want to please God."

Paul said that he didn't live to merely please men, but God (v. 2:4)

"Abound more and more" = Paul is not saying that they were committing immorality or that their lives were displeasing to God. As a matter of fact, their lives were pleasing to God (cp. 4:1 in NASV), but he wanted them to keep in growing, keep on pleasing God - to overflow ("abound") or go beyond the pleasure they were already bringing to God.

Don't ever be satisfied with how far you have arrived. Never give up striving for higher levels or moral purity!

We were created and redeemed to bring pleasure to God:

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and <u>for thy pleasure</u> [for Thy desire] ***they are and were created.***

God created all things for himself.

Romans 11:36
For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

"The prayer of the upright is His <u>delight</u>" (Prov. 15:8)

"Pleasure" - will or desire"

God <u>created</u> man (and all of creation) to bring pleasure to Himself (We accomplish his by fulfilling His will - I Th. 5:18)

Why please God? It's not that there is some motion in God that needs to be satisfied; but when we speak of pleasing God, we speak of fulfillment of His will and desire.

All creation exists presently ("they <u>are</u>" - present tense) to fulfill God's desires.

Make this your goal!

If the heavens declare God's glory (Ps. 19:1), why shouldn't God's people?

Cp. Triumphal Entry (Lk. 19:37-40) - "The stones would immediately cry out"

Ps. 50:23 - "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me."

Heb. 13:15 - "The sacrifice of praise"

Colossians 1:16 For by him [Christ] ***were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:***

"For" - because - giving a reason why Christ is the preeminent "firstborn." (v.15)

Jesus is Creator:

John 1:3 - "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made."

Eph. 3:9 - "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

Heb. 1:2 - "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

Jesus created everything.

1) All beings and things "in heavens and in earth"
2) All that is material and immaterial
3) All laws, governing authorities and powers

"In Heaven" - Jesus created the angelic realm (the host of angels including Michael and Gabriel; the cherubim and seraphim, etc.)

"In earth" - everything from the Swiss Alps to the Islands of Hawaii; every kind of plant, tree, fruit, vegetable; every animal, fish, reptile and insect. And the crown of His creation - mankind - was made by and for Jesus Christ.

No wonder the elements obeyed His voice; and the demons trembled in His presence and respected Him. He is LORD of all, Creator of all!

It does not matter where it is (location); or what it is (essence); or how it is ("the powers that be") -- Jesus made it all.

The powers that be are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1) particularly of Jesus Christ!

When Jesus became man, He worked as a carpenter. A fitting trade for the one who built the universe, and yet what a humble trade. What humiliation for the Creator who spoke the world into existence to work much of his 33 years on earth using the simple tools of man and the elements of His own creation, to construct with.

"By ("dia") Him and for ("eis") him" - Christ is the beginner and benefactor of creation; He is its source and goal. He did it, and is to be glorified by it. He is Creation's author and finisher. He is the architect and owner!

You were created by Jesus and for Jesus.

He made you for Himself; to glorify Him, to live for Him.

"Were created" - perfect tense, meaning that everything that Jesus created in the past, still exists in the present for Him; for His glory and purpose.

Who pleased God?

Although not perfect, several Bible heroes had a testimony of pleasing God.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith **Enoch** was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Noah – A Builder for God
Abraham – A Friend of God
Moses – A Leader for God
David – A Heart for God
Joseph – A Useful Vessel for God
Daniel – A Stand for God
Paul - A Church-planter for God

The ultimate example of pleasing God: JESUS

--At His baptism

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

--At the Mount of Transfiguration

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

What Pleases God?

The Work of His Son: Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand
Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

1. God is pleased by our adoption as children

Psalms 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2. God is pleased by our deep, reverential respect for Him

Psalms 147:11 The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

3. God is pleased by our spiritual understanding of His plan

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

4. God is pleased by the uprightness of heart

1 Chronicles 29:17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

5. God is pleased by the public proclamation of His Gospel (preaching pleases God)

He is pleased to save men by preaching.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

6. God is pleased by obedience to parental authority

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

7. God is pleased by a practice which matches with our position

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

8. God is pleased by our obedience to His Word

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.

9. God is pleased by every church member fulfilling his/her role in the Body

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

10. God is pleased by our sacrificial giving

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

CONCLUSION:

"Proving what is acceptable (well-pleasing) unto the Lord"

Ask yourself a Question:
Is God pleased with my conduct,
attitudes,
speech,
dress,
entertainment/amusements, music, TV,
my relationships,
my present service for Him?