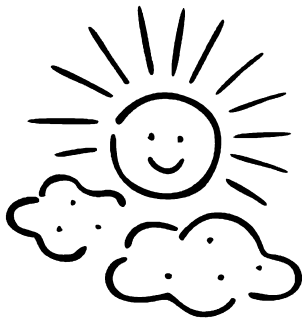
For Thy Pleasure



Selected Scriptures

3/9/03

Introduction: **We were made for God:**

Proverbs 16:4; Isaiah 43:21; Romans 11:36; Hebrews 2:10

I. 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 for thy pleasure [for Thy desire] ***they are and were created.***

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:***

Who pleased 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.

The ultimate example of pleasing God, the Father: JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 3:17; Matthew 12:18; Matthew 17:5

II. OUR SELFISH NATURE PROPELS US TO SEEK PLEASURE AT ALL COST:

III. FALSE PLEASURE IS FROM SIN:

1. **Those who live for pleasure are self-centered** (all wrapped up in self) Isaiah 47:8a
2. **Those who live for pleasure will not bear fruit** Luke 8:14
3. **Those who live for pleasure make pleasure their master and themselves its servants** Titus 3:3
4. **Those who live for pleasure will not love God** 2 Timothy 3:4
5. **Those who live for sin's pleasures will do so only for a short season** Hebrews 11:25

True pleasure is from God: Job 36:11; Psalms 16:11

Be a God-pleaser, not a people-pleaser: Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4

IV. WHAT PLEASES GOD?

The Work of His Son: Jesus Christ: *Isaiah 53:10-11*

1. **God is pleased by our adoption as children** Psalms 149:4; Ephesians 1:5
2. **God is pleased by our deep, reverential respect for Him** Psalms 147:11
3. **God is pleased by our spiritual understanding of His plan** Ephesians 1:9
4. **God is pleased by the uprightness of heart** 1 Chronicles 29:17
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
6. **God is pleased by obedience to parental authority** Colossians 3:20
7. **God is pleased by a practice which matches with our position** Colossians 1:10
8. **God is pleased by our obedience to His Word** 1 John 3:22
9. **God is pleased by every church member fulfilling his/her role in the Body** 1 Corinthians 12:18
10. **God is pleased by our sacrificial giving** Hebrews 13:16

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?

For Thy Pleasure

Selected Scriptures

3/9/03

Song: "I Was Made to Praise the Lord."

We were made for God:

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made **all *things* for himself**

Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed **for myself**; they shall shew forth my praise.

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

Hebrews 2:10 ¶ For it became him, **for whom *are* all things**, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

I. 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 for thy pleasure [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 delight" (Prov. 15:8)

"Pleasure" - will or desire"

God created 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 are" - 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.

II. Our selfish nature propels us to seek pleasure at all cost:

From what does man's sin stem? What is the common denominator for all sin? What is sin at its most basic, ultimate core?

The essence of sin is selfishness in the heart!

All forms of sin have their root in selfishness (cp. Strong, p. 569). Selfishness is the underlying factor behind all sin.

There is selfish motivation behind every sin!

a. Why is selfishness sin?

Basically: selfishness is a violation of the greatest of God's commands (a breaking of the all-encompassing requirement of the Law) -- to love God (Matt. 22:36-40; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14).

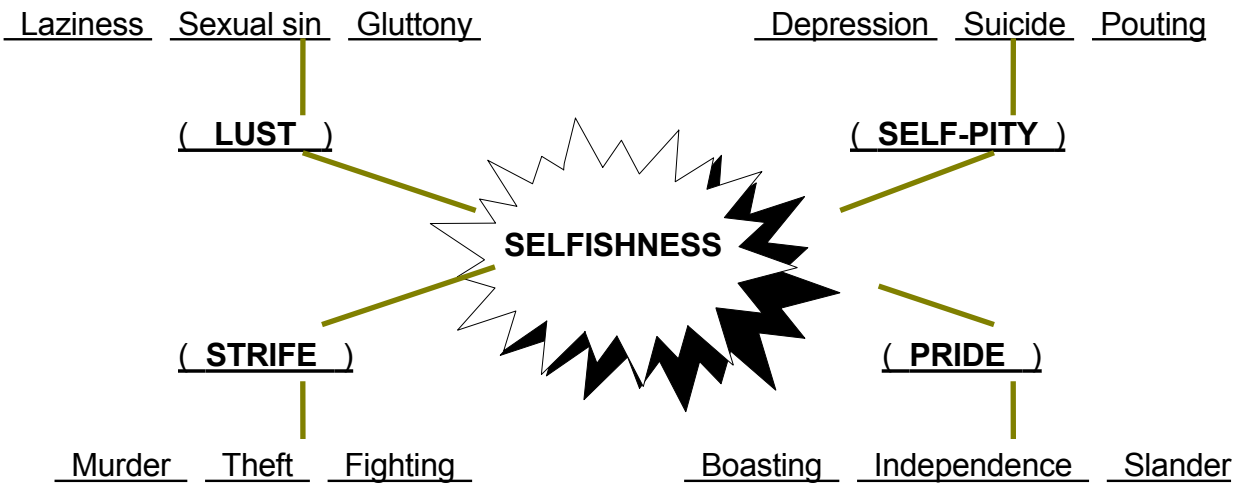
1) Selfishness places self ahead of God.

a) Selfishness says: "Me first" not "Thee first."
(Luke 9:57-62; it is actually idolatry - Col. 3:5)

b) Selfishness says: "My will be done" not "Thy will be done" (Mt. 6:10)

2) Selfishness places self ahead of others (Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 10:24)

b. Diagram of selfishness being the core, cause, or source of every other sin:



c. The manifestation of selfishness:

Selfishness basically expresses itself in four ways:

1) **Lust** (coveting for yourself)

Motive - Lust is the drive of selfishness
Attitude - Lust says, "I want it!"
Scripture - James 1:14-15; EX: David - II Sam. 11:1-5; Ahab - I Kings 21

2) **Self-pity** (feeling sorry for yourself

Motive - Self-pity is the justification of selfishness
Attitude - Self-pity says, "I deserve it!"
Scripture - EX: Elijah - I Kings 19

3) **Strife** (being wrongly ambitious for yourself)

Motive - Strife is the action of selfishness
Attitude - Strife says, "I will get it!"
Scripture - Phil. 1:15-16, 2:3; Ja. 3:14-16

4) **Pride** (showing off yourself)

Motive - Pride is the display of selfishness
Attitude - Pride says, "I have it!"
Scripture - Daniel 4:30ff

d. Illustrations of the essence and nature of sin:

1) Satan's most basic temptation: A promise of selfish independence ("You shall be as God" - Gen. 3:5)

2) The "Man of Sin" - "opposing and exalting himself against all that is called God" (II Th. 2:3-4).

Victory over selfishness is salvation! II Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:20)

III. False pleasure is from Sin:

1. Those who live for pleasure are self-centered (all wrapped up in self)

Isaiah 47:8a Therefore hear now this, *thou that art* given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I *am*, and none else beside me;

"Mark it down: There are only two cookies on the shelf – pleasing God or pleasing self." Must choose one.

2. Those who live for pleasure will not bear fruit

Luke 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

3. Those who live for pleasure will not love God

2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

4. Those who live for pleasure make pleasure their master and themselves its servants

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

5. Those who live for sin's pleasures will do so only for a short season

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Examples of pleasure seekers?

Those who live for selfish pleasure have lives that are …

- too Cluttered (jam-packed) to spend time with God in prayer & the Word
- too preoccupied (busy & therefore tired) to expend energy serving God in a ministry
- too lazy to be faithful to all regular church services

Are you a pleasure Seeker?

- You will not gain pleasure by seeking pleasure
- True pleasure is the by-product (result) of bringing God pleasure

God is not against us receiving pleasure; rather, He desires that we obtain <u>true</u> pleasure in His <u>time</u> and in His <u>way</u>.

True pleasure is from God:

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve *him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years **in <u>pleasures</u>**.

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; **at thy right hand *there are* <u>pleasures</u>** for evermore.

Live for the "Well Done"

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, <u>Well</u> <u>done</u>, <u>*thou*</u> good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Be a God-pleaser, not a people-pleaser:

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for ***<u>if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.</u>***

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; ***<u>not as pleasing men, but God</u>***, which trieth our hearts.

IV. 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?