

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 9

What Makes God Happy?

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

I was planned for God's pleasure.

You have a purpose. There is a clear reason why we are here. God created us for the sole purpose of bringing Him pleasure. We need to find out what pleases God.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

"The Lord takes pleasure in His people." – Psalm 149:4

For all of our silliness and failings, God does love us. He takes pleasure in watching us, and being a part of our lives.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

What common task could I start doing as if I were doing it directly for Christ?

It's not the great, but the simple that God wants from us. Turning over even the most trivial and mean parts of lives to God is what pleases Him. It may be hard for us to start, but the more you do the easier it becomes. Vacuuming, Dishes, driving the kids to school... All things that we can give to God

- Making God happy is the goal of your life
 - How do we make God happy?
- We have a great example in the Bible
 - A man who found favor in the eyes of the Lord...
- Let's look at Noah's life:
 - The world was so morally bankrupt that God decided to wipe it all out
 - But Noah pleased God (Genesis 6:8)

- We find (5) acts of Worship in Noah's life that we can all learn from

1) It pleases God when we love Him Supremely

- Noah loved God more than anything else in the world

- Look at the description of Noah's life:

- Genesis 6:9 NLT

- 9) This is the history of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless man living on earth at the time. He consistently followed God's will and enjoyed a close relationship with him.

- That is what God wants most for us!

- A relationship!

- It's the most amazing truth that we don't grasp very easily...

- God made you to love you, and He is longing for you to love Him back

- Hosea 6:6 MSG

- 6) I'm after love that lasts, not more religion. I want you to know GOD, not go to more prayer meetings.

- Do you sense the passion in that verse?

- God desires our love more than anything else

- We should make learning to love God and to be loved by Him our prime objective

- Look at how Jesus describes it:

- Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

- 37) Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

- 38) This is the first and greatest commandment.

- This is the greatest thing you can learn

- This is the primary source of our service to God

2) It pleases God when we trust Him completely

- What a great example Noah gives us of trust...

- Noah trusted in God even when it didn't make sense to him

- Hebrews 11:7 MSG

7) By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told. The result? His family was saved. His act of faith drew a sharp line between the evil of the unbelieving world and the rightness of the believing world. As a result, Noah became intimate with God.

- 1) Noah had never seen rain before
- 2) Noah lived hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean
- 3) How can you round up and care for ALL the animals in the world?

- Noah didn't complain or make excuses...

- He trusted God completely

- Trusting God completely requires having faith that He knows what's best for you

- Trusting is an act of Worship

- Trusting God even when it doesn't make sense to you is the hallmark of Trust

3) God is pleased when we obey him wholeheartedly

- Noah didn't just build any old boat that he wanted

- He didn't take the easy way out

- God had VERY specific plans about the design and size of the boat to be built

- And God's plan took 120 years to build

- Look what Noah did...

- Genesis 6:22 NLT

22) So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

- That is "wholeheartedness"...

- To do what God says, COMPLETELY and EXACTLY

- If God had asked me to build a boat that size, I'm sure I would have had a few "suggestions" of my own:

- *Do you really think it needs to be that big?*

- *How important are the Duck Billed Platypuses anyway?*
- *Do you really think we need to bring along rats and cockroaches?*
- *How about a few more windows?*
- Noah understood that God doesn't owe us any explanation or reason for what He asks us to do
 - Understanding can wait
 - Obedience can't
- Instant obedience will teach you more about God than a lifetime of Bible Classes
 - In fact we can't even understand some commandments until we obey them
- James 2:24 CEV
 - 24) You can now see that we please God by what we do and not only by what we believe.
- Why is obedience so important?
 - Because it shows that we love God
- John 14:15 AMP
 - 15) If you really love Me, you will obey My commandments.
- 4)** God is pleased when we thank Him continually
 - Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt thanks
 - God loves it also
- Noah's first act after surviving the flood was to express thanks to God by offering a sacrifice
- Psalm 69:30-31 NIV
 - 30) I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.
 - 31) This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.
- 5)** God is pleased when we use our abilities fully
- Take a look at what God tells Noah after the flood...

- Genesis 9:1-3 NKJV

- 1) So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.
- 2) And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.
- 3) Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

- Get on with life!

- Enjoy yourself!

- Make love to your wife

- Have Babies

- Work in the Garden

- Have a Steak

- This is what God designed man for, and He wants us to enjoy ourselves

- If you think that the only time God is pleased with you is when you are doing something "spiritual", then you are underestimating God's love for you

- God enjoys watching every part of your life

- When you do well on a task
- When you hit a long golf ball
- When you prepare a great meal

- God is interested in our work life, our play life, our eating and our resting...

- Psalm 37:23 NLT

- 23) The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives.

- Everything you do, except for sin, can be done for God's pleasure, if you do it with an attitude of praise

- God is especially pleased when you use the talents and abilities that He has given you

- There are no unspiritual abilities... Just misused ones

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

God is pleased when I trust Him.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

“The Lord is pleased with those who trust in His Love.” – Psalm 147:11

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

Since God knows what is best, in what areas of my life do I need to trust him more?