

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 8:5,6.**
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (10-17-93).
- C. Our main goal should be to please God.
 - 1. The Lord delights in or is pleased by those who fear Him (Psa. 147:11).
 - 2. This fear is not terror, but reverence and loving submission (Eccl. 12:13).
- D. Today, we want to study the idea of "pleasing God."

I. SOME CANNOT PLEASE GOD.

- A. Those who are carnal minded cannot please God (Rom. 8:6-8).
- B. Those who live after the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:13).
- C. God gives up on those who are completely overtaken in their (Rom. 1:24,26,28).
- D. Those who put material things first; food, drink, clothing, and wealth (Mt. 6:31-33).
- E. Those who only profess to know God (Titus 1:15,16).

II. SOME WOULD NOT PLEASE GOD.

- A. Cain would not offer what God wanted, but what he preferred (Heb. 11:4).
- B. King Saul wouldn't do what God said, because he was "afraid of the people" (1Sam. 15:22-24).
- C. Nadab and Abihu would not please God, because they did not think God meant what He said in specifying what fire to use (Lev. 10:1,2).
- D. Ananias and Sapphira would not please God, because they claimed to contribute the whole price of their land, but kept back part of it (Ac. 5:1-5).

III. SOME DID PLEASE GOD.

- A. Abraham was called "the father of all those who believe" (Rom. 4:11) and "a friend of God" (Jas. 2:23).
- B. Jesus pleased the Father (Mt. 3:17; 17:5).
- C. The apostles sought to please God rather than men (Ac. 4:19,20).
- D. Paul sought to please God (Gal. 1:10).

IV. THERE ARE SOME PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE US IN PLEASING GOD.

- A. Jesus illustrates some of the principles by these examples:
 - 1. His nourishment was to do the Father's will (Jn. 4:34).
 - 2. He did not seek to do His own will (Jn. 5:30).
 - 3. He came from heaven to do the Father's will (Jn. 6:38).
 - 4. He always did the Father's will (Jn. 8:29).
 - 5. He humbled Himself to please the Father (Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 5:8,9).
- B. In Phil. 2:5-13, Paul explains how to please God.
 - 1. First, **we must humble ourselves like Christ did.** No pride.
He gave up being equal with God, to become a man and suffer on the cross.
 - 2. Second, we must "deny ourselves." No selfishness.
Taking up our cross and following Him is essential to being a disciple.
 - 3. Third, **we are to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling."**
 - a. The "working" is not of merit, or earning salvation, but complying with God's conditions for receiving it.
 - b. It is saving faith--trusting God enough to do what He says rather than what we think or want.
 - 4. Fourth, **Paul says that is God is working in us.**
 - a. God works in us when we are trusting Him, and following His word (Rom. 10:17).

- b. We want to study His word to better understand what pleases Him. Then we will want and will to do what pleases Him.
- c. If He is working in us, we are doing what He says.

V. THE RESULT OF PLEASING GOD--HE CAN BLESS US IN MANY MORE WAYS.

- A. God accepts us as His child (Rom. 8: 14,17).
- B. God accepts our service (Ac. 10:34,35; 1Jn. 1:7).
- C. He keeps us from being tempted beyond our ability to resist (1Cor. 10:13).
- D. He answers our prayers, although sometimes the answer is "no" (1Pet. 3:12).
- E. He gives us an eternal home with Him in heaven (2Cor. 5:1; Rev. 22:14).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Although some cannot or will not please God, we can if we choose.
- B. We must humble ourselves and seek to please Him.
- C. We must trust Him enough to do what He says.
- D. Many blessings are offered as a gift if we will do what He says.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.