

## INSIGHT

Everyone who has been baptized into Christ has become a child of God (*Gal. 3:26-27*). A loving child is characterized by his desire to please his parents. In the like figure, a child of God seeks to please his heavenly Father and will therefore submit to His will! This attribute comes from a true understanding of the cross and its saving power for the penitent believer.

**Romans 8:14** says, “those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” True believers are guided by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit (*Eph. 6:17*). Jesus said those who abide by His teachings are His true disciples (*John 8:31-32*). This is because the true child of God will want to walk in the steps of his Lord.

Divine favor rests on such! **Proverbs 16:7** says, “When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.” A Christian's goal is to live by the Spirit of Christ; he will be reap the benefits of peace with even his enemies. It is the duty of every true disciple to live a life pleasing to his Creator, Savior, Lord, Teacher and God!

Christ is the greatest example of a life pleasing to God! **Matthew 3:17** quotes the Father saying to Jesus, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Jesus said in **John 8:29**, “The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” Christ had the confidence in knowing that the Father was always with Him because He did what pleased His Father. For He loved His Father and His Father loved Him! God's children may expect God's presence with them when they choose and do those things that please Him because they love Him! Let your faith in God be made evident: Seek to please God in all you do! Love Him by keeping His commands (*1 John 5:3*) and do good to those around you (*Heb 13:16*). Praise God for His unspeakable love! AMEN!

## *The Life in Christ* *A Life Pleasing To God*

### **Key Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1**

*"Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more."*

### **Theme:**

As children of God, we are called to live a life centered on pleasing God. The jobs we take, the work that we do, the things that we say, the things we ask for, and the reasons why we do should all be for the sake of Christ and to the glory of God. The design of the gospel was not only to teach us what we should believe, but also how we should walk! The Christian's life is not a walk of the flesh, but rather a walk of the Spirit. In all you do, let it be done to the glory of God!

### **Application:**

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Be at the assemblies of the saints!** Do not let any minor circumstance stop you from being at services! Be willing to take the train if you can't get a ride to services or meetings!
2. **Let God be in all your decisions!** Get into the habit of saying “What would Jesus do?” or “What would be pleasing to God?”
3. **Let kindness reign in your life!** God is pleased with those who show kindness and generosity (*Heb. 13:16*). Be known as one who possesses such a spirit!
4. **Pray for everyone!** God is pleased with those who take the time to pray for those in the world (*1 Tim. 2:1*). Pray for the church, for those in authority like the president, the government, etc.

**May the Lord richly bless you!**

## SERMON OUTLINE

## A Life Pleasing To God

### I. Jacob

#### A. Before Meeting God

1. Son of Isaac
  - a. Crafty--*Gen. 25:29-33*  
--Cheats his brother out of his birthright
  - b. Deceptive--*Gen. 27:18-29*  
--Tricks his aged father into blessing him instead of Esau
  - c. Reaped what he sowed--*Gen. 27:42-43*  
--forced to flee from his brother's rage

#### B. After Meeting God

1. God calls him through a vision
  - a. Becomes a new man (*Gen. 28:10-21*)  
  
--he acknowledges God's presence  
--he vows to make God his Lord
  - b. Seeks God's in prayer (*Gen. 32:9-12*)  
--alarmed by his brother's coming
  - c. Peace made between him and his brother Esau (*Gen. 33:1-4*)  
--He has an affectionate meeting with his brother (*Prov. 16:7*)
  - d. He was part of the Honor Roll of Faith (*Heb. 11:21*)

### II. Conclusion--Hebrews 11:6

1. Walk with God: let your faith be active!

### Warm-up:

If you were (or are) a parent, what would make you very proud of your child?

### See To It

### Hebrews 11:1-16

1. Explain the definition of faith in light of the gospel. What is hoped for and what is unseen?
2. Why was Abel more pleasing to God than Cain? Explain with Scripture.
3. What kind of man was Enoch? We don't have much detail about Enoch's life, yet what was he known for?
4. Why is Enoch's example important for the Christian? What is God teaching us?
5. How did Noah's life reflect a life pleasing to God?
6. How did Abraham's life reflect a life pleasing to God?

### Seeing It Closer:

1. **Read verse 13.** What is meant by the phrase "...they did not receive the promised things; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance"?
2. **Read verses 14-15.** How does this apply to the true child of God? What should our attitudes be in Christ?
3. Who does God prepare a city for? Who does God call His children?

### Getting To It:

Pray that we always seek His will in all circumstances. That our faith will be the result of a genuine love for God. Encourage one another to live a life pleasing to God--a life of faith, seeking that which will glorify the Lord!

## SMALL GROUP STUDY