Serving a God Who Can Be Pleased

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INTRODUCTION

- It's a wonderful thing that we serve a God who can be pleased.
- But in order to obtain that goal, we must first believe that it's possible even to do that to please God.
- And so we begin this lesson with a question: can God really be pleased?

1 Thinking God Cannot Be Pleased Is Dangerous

Isaiah 64:6–7

- And first of all, it drains all motivation from trying to please him.
- If our mentality is that our God's attitude toward us is your best is not good enough, then ultimately we're just not really going to put forth our best effort.
- Our best is not good enough to earn our salvation, because that would require perfection. But brethren, our best is good enough to please God.
- But true service, genuine obedience to God is not before him as filthy rags. It is a sweet smelling aroma.
- A second danger of thinking God cannot be pleased is it drains all hope of heaven.

2 Can God Really Be Pleased? A Resounding Yes

Psalm 149:4; Zephaniah 3:17; Matthew 25:21

- But the answer to this question, can God really be pleased, brethren, is a resounding yes.
- For the Lord takes pleasure in his people. He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.
- He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.
- God is not only satisfied with his faithful servants, he is absolutely thrilled.
- We should have the fullest confidence that we can please God. In fact, that we are pleasing God.

3 The Wrong Approach Is Justification by Law

Luke 18:9; Galatians 5:4; Romans 6:14

- The wrong approach is justification by law.
- And the result is trusting in one's own righteousness and not in the Lord.
- You who attempt to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace.
- I'm simply saying that we cannot earn heaven, and we cannot please God by rule keeping alone.
- The truth is we are not under law, but we are under grace.
- Don't do with the New Testament what the Jews did with the Old Testament. And turn it into a legal system.

4 The Right Approach Is Justification by Faith

Ephesians 2:8–9; Hebrews 11:6; Genesis 15:6

- The right approach is justification by faith.
- But without faith it is impossible to please him. For he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.
- It is placing one's full trust upon God in heart, mind, and action.
- And he believed in the Lord, and the Lord accounted it to him for righteousness.
- It relies on us giving to God something we can all give him. Our trust.
- God wants us to know beyond the shadow of a doubt that he can be pleased, even well pleased, if we simply serve him in obedient faith.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Realize that God can be pleased and that you can be the one who pleases Him. And this will motivate you and it will light your fire to serve Him zealously.**

MY NOTES