



# Let's Please God

## I. Pleasing God is a Better Way

1 Corinthians 1:21–25 (NIV®)

<sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, **God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.** <sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Luke 12:29–34 (NIV®)

<sup>29</sup> "And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. <sup>32</sup> Do not be afraid, little flock, **for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.** <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

1 Corinthians 10:3–11 (NIV®)

<sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, **God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.**

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." <sup>8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.



Hebrews 11:5 (NIV®)

By faith **Enoch** was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as **one who pleased God**.

Hebrews 13:16 (NIV®)

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for **with such sacrifices God is pleased**.

Matthew 7:21–23 (NIV®)

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven**. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’

<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

A. Pleased with Jesus

Matthew 3:17 (NIV®)

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 17:1–8 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. <sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and **a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”** <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”

<sup>8</sup> When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on

earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### B. God and Anger

Jeremiah 10:10 (NIV®)

But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.

**When he is angry**, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

1 Kings 11:9–11 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> **The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel**, who had appeared to him twice. <sup>10</sup> Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. <sup>11</sup> So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates."

Psalms 95:10 (NIV®)

**For forty years I was angry with that generation**; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways."

#### C. Please or Oppose

Mark 3:2–6 (NIV®)

<sup>2</sup> Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. <sup>5</sup> **He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts**, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>6</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.