"Aim to Please"

"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him."

(2 Corinthians 5:9)

The Ultimate God-Pleaser

<u>Luke 3:21-22</u> – (21) "Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, (22) and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

<u>John 8:29</u> – "And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, <u>for I</u> (<u>Jesus</u>) always do the things that are <u>pleasing</u> to him."

<u>John 12:28</u> – "Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

Neurotic Narcissism

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 – (9) "The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (10) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (11) Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, (12) in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Key Point: Aim to Please God

How can I Please God?

(1) Know God's Will

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:9-10)

(2) Believe

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." (Hebrews 11:5-6)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Do I understand the distinction between God's love for me and His pleasure concerning me?

Are there consequences when God's people tend to displease Him? (1 Cor. 10:1-12)

What happens when God's people fail to believe Him? (Heb. 10:38)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)