

LIVING TO PLEASE GOD
SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

I THES 4:1-4

INTRODUCTION: We all live to please someone – self, others or God. As believers we should live to please God. Paul’s use of “beseech” and “exhort” reveals His deep concern for how these Christians were living. Beseech means to beg, plead or urge. Exhort means to advise, warn or incite to action. He was urging them to stop displeasing God by how they were living and start pleasing God. Here, He’s talking about avoiding sexual immorality and living holy sanctified lives.

THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD

1. Faith. **HEB 11:5-6**
 - A. Faith is so important to God there’s a whole chapter devoted to how people used their faith and trusted God. **JUDE 14-16**
 - B. **IS. 8:13-14a (AMPC)** – We can offend God by not trusting Him.
2. Being spiritually minded. **ROM 8:6-8**
 - A. Once saved, it’s essential to change our way of thinking.
 - B. **ROM. 12:1-2** – Both body and mind need dealt with.
3. Bearing good fruit. **COL. 1:9-10**
 - A. Fruit trees produce fruit. **JOHN 15:1-8**
 - B. **GAL. 5:19-24 (NLT)**
 - Those living together outside of marriage will marry.
 - Those cheating others will deal honestly.
 - Those who abuse with their speech will control their tongue.
 - Those who use others will start serving others.
 - Those who tear down others will build others up.
4. Long to know Him better. **COL. 1:10**
 - A. Not know about Him, but experience Him, and conform to His life and character. **PHIL 3:8-10**
 - B. Not to gain knowledge that remains detached from our lives, but knowledge that moves us to true heartfelt devotion.
5. Lean on His power. **COL. 1:12**
 - A. He wants to be our strength. **EPH. 6:10**
 - B. Power to work miracles, stand against the enemy and witness for Jesus. **ACTS 4:33**
6. Offer the proper sacrifice. **HEB. 13:15-16**
 - A. He’s pleased when we praise Him, do good and share.
7. Live thankful lives. **COL. 1:12-14**
 - A. For our inheritance, deliverance, translation, redemption and forgiveness.
8. Obedience. **COL. 3:18-24**
 - A. Wives submit, husbands love, children obey and this is well pleasing to God.
 - B. **1 SAM 15:22-23** – Obedience pleases God.

CONCLUSION: God is pleased when we:

- Live by faith.
- Mind spiritual things.
- Bear good fruit.
- Study to know Him better.
- Lean on His power.
- Make proper sacrifices.
- Live thankful lives.
- Obey Him.

PR. 16:7 – When our ways please Him, He will deal with our enemies.