

Living to Please God

by Theodore Epp

The sermon emphasizes the importance of living to please God above all, while maintaining a balance in our interactions with others for effective evangelism.

Scripture: Colossians 1:9

Topics: "Pleasing God", "Balance in Evangelism"

Description

Theodore Epp emphasizes the importance of living to please God rather than seeking the approval of man, drawing from Paul's prayer for the Colossians. He highlights that true pleasing of God comes through the strength of the indwelling Christ, enabling believers to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. While our primary focus should be on God, Epp reminds us that maintaining a balance is crucial, as our attitudes and actions can impact our ability to reach others with the Gospel. Paul exemplified this balance by seeking to please others for their salvation while remaining true to God. Ultimately, the goal is to always do those things that please Him.

Transcript

Colossians 1:9-12

As Paul prayed for the Colossians and their walk, or way of life, he did not pray that it might be pleasing to man but to God. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul said of himself, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (1:10). Of course, when we live in a way that pleases God, many people will also be pleased by the way we live. But our focus of attention should be on pleasing God rather than people.

Living in a way that pleases God cannot be done in one's own strength. It is only by means of the indwelling Christ that the believer can exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and have a walk that pleases the Lord.

Although the believer seeks primarily to please God, not people, we must keep these truths in balance. We will not be successful in reaching others with the Gospel if we constantly displease them by our attitudes and actions. But above all, we must be true to God Himself in all that we do. As Paul sought to evangelize the lost, he was very careful not to unnecessarily offend those he was endeavoring to reach. Paul summed up this aspect of his life in this way: "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Cor. 10:33).

"For I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29).

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