

PLEASING GOD

Hebrews 13:18-25

Introduction: In reviewing the book of Hebrews, Jesus Christ is described as prophet, priest and king, greater than Moses. Jesus' sacrifice fulfilled the requirements of the Law. The Hebrews were weak, as babies, it is faith, not works that save and examples are given of those who had been faithful and who had pleased God. The writer then asks "who wants to please God?" and proceeds to tell how we can do just that. So here are some ways to please God.

I. PRAYER (*vv18-19*)

1. The writer believed that God answered prayer (personal experienced by the writer).
2. The writer (Paul) scolded the Hebrew people in telling them that they were still on milk and should be on meat, that they were babies and should be teachers, etc.
3. God is happy when His children pray, it pleases Him.
 - Think about what you substitute for prayer: criticism, complaining.
 - It pleases God greatly when we pray for one another.

II. PEACE (*v20*)

1. Today there is much turmoil and chaos in the lives of Christians and in God's Church. This is directly opposite of what God wants for both His Children and His Church.
2. How does one get peace? From God! The world does not really know peace and cannot therefore offer anything lasting.
 - People search for peace, looking everywhere except the only place where it is - with God.
3. The peace that comes from God is everlasting for it comes through the blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection.
4. To please God, we must let HIS peace be in our lives.

III. PERFECTION (*vv20-21*)

1. "katartizo" - is like the resetting of a broken bone. To mend.
2. Think about mankind being "out of joint" with God and only God can set things straight again, broken, but can be mended by only God.
3. God has plans, and it pleases God when we are in His will and doing what He wants.
4. Doing God's will brings help and peace to those around us.

5. Often God's children get too busy being "Christians" and forget all about Jesus and God's peace.
6. Sometimes we just try too hard, using our own strengths, efforts and wisdom.
7. What God wants/asks us to do, He enables us to do and we don't have to do it in our own strength.
8. God's will is "inside" the believer, and will be done by His strength.

IV. PRAISE (v21)

1. Pray and work to please God, His peace comes and then comes praise.
2. Prayer pleases God, our peace pleases God, our work pleases God, yet, too often we neglect to PRAISE God.
3. In our prayers we are always asking for things. Maybe sometime we ought to not ask for anything but just thank Him and spend some time PRAISING Him.

V. PERFORMANCE (v22)

1. The ultimate way to please God is by our lives.
- Paul said in effect: "I told you want to do, now get on with it..."
2. God wants us to pray, to be at peace, to be perfect (joined together) and is pleased when we offer praise, all of this together is culminated by ACTION...
3. Hearing, studying God's Word is one wonderful, good thing, but there comes a time to do something about it.
- We must tell the lost how to be saved, we must ACT, for they will never be saved until we ACT.

CONCLUSION:

1. The book of Hebrews is God's call to get up and go to work.
2. Most Christians seldom, if ever, "put feet" to all that they know about the Lord and what He has commanded every Christian to do and that is to tell others about Him and Heaven and Hell.
3. If you want to please God, then pray, enjoy God's peace, find God's will, praise Him, and then do something, get busy for Him.