Pleasure is the Goal

**Texts:** Ezra10:11 “Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do His pleasure…”

Revelation 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Proverbs 21:17 “He that loveth pleasure *shall be* a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.”

**Introduction:** I love the response that I get at Chic Fil when I thank them for their service. They say: “It’s my pleasure.” We live in an age where men and women gauge the success of their life by how much pleasure they can have. “Don’t you think that God wants me to be happy?” is the question that is thrown at those who would challenge others choices. I found some scriptures that deal with this subject. Check out the way that these verses use the word: “Pleasure.”

**I. Man’s search for pleasure:** Tell me; do you think that we live in an age of men seeking for pleasure or do we live in an age of selfless giving? Do we live in an age of boundless faith and belief in the promises of God or do we live in an age of critical skepticism which breeds doubt and disbelief?

In Genesis 18 Sarah responds to the promise of a child with the thought that she is too old for the pleasure of giving birth. Deuteronomy 23 talks about man taking pleasure in eating. Esther 1 talks about man drinking for pleasure. In Job 12:21 Job talks about the pleasure associated with a long life. Peter talks about those who live to party. Romans 1 talks of men who have chosen to have pleasure in that which God hates. Paul warns the Thessalonian church that damnation awaits those who have: “…pleasure in unrighteousness.” Paul tells Timothy: “…she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”

**II. God’s pleasure is not in:** wickedness (Psalm 5:4), man’s ability (Psalm 147:10). In Ecclesiastes 5:4 God has no pleasure in fools. In Hebrews 10:6&8 God does not have pleasure in offerings or sacrifices for sin. In Hebrews 10:38 God does not have pleasure in those who draw back from faith.

**III. God has pleasure in:** uprightness (I Chronicles 29:17). Psalm 35:27 says that God has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant. Psalm 103:21 says that our “blessing the Lord” brings God pleasure. Psalm 147:11 tells us that God takes pleasure in those who fear Him and hope in His mercy. In Psalm 149:4 The Lord takes pleasure in providing salvation. Ezekiel 33:11 God has pleasure in those who turn from sin. Luke 12:32 God gets pleasure from giving us His kingdom. Ephesians 1:5 God is pleasured when He adopts us into His family. Four verses later we read that God’s pleasure is in revealing His will to us.

**Conclude:** If pleasure is your goal than let us make sure that it is God’s pleasure that we are aiming at. Paul speaks of this in II Corinthians 12:10 when he says: “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”