

**May 7, 2006**

**Series:** Against the Tide

**Sermon:** "What Does It Take to Please God?"

**Scripture:**

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup>And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

-Colossians 1:9-14 (New International Version)

**Introduction:**

- Paul lists 4 components of living a life pleasing to God.
- What does it take to please God?

**I. Do good.**

- Colossians 1:10: "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way..."
- You cannot "do good" your way into a right relationship with God.
- Ephesians 2:8-10: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..."
- You must give your life to Jesus before you can begin to work for Him.
- What has God given you the ability, the desire, and the opportunity to do?

**II. Know God.**

- Colossians 1:10: "...bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,"
- We cannot make God into something that pleases us; we must strive to

know Him as He is.

- The more time we spend in God's presence, in His Word, the more we will know what God is really like.

### III. Endure with patience.

- When you read Scripture you can't help but notice that God places a great deal of value on endurance.
  - I Corinthians 9:27: "No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize"
  - II Timothy 4:7-8: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."
  - Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
- Colossians 1:11: "being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience..."
- If you yield yourself to God, he will fill you with His strength and power, and give you the ability to endure.

### IV. Have a thankful heart.

- Colossians 1:12: "giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."
- God does not want our gratitude to be expressed from a sense of dread; he wants it to be expressed from a sense of joy.
- Psalm 100:4: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving...give thanks to him and praise his name."

### Conclusion:

- Mark 12:30: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."
- This is what pleasing God is about- that we love him, even to the extent that it makes a difference in the way we act, in the way we think, and in the way we live.