

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

MEMORIAL MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

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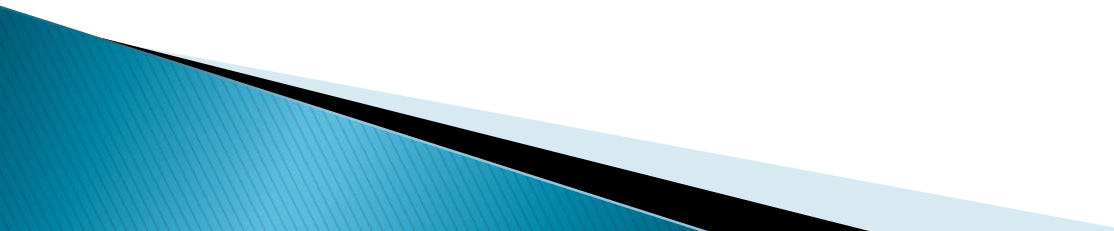
BISHOP LARRY B. AIKEN
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HOW TO PLEASE GOD

Heb 11:6

But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.



HOW TO PLEASE GOD



- **What does it mean to live a life that pleases God?** If you are like most people, that simple question may leave you tongue-tied.
- **But, if you were pressed for an answer, you would probably list a number of external behaviors as those things necessary to please God:**

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- ▶ Don't smoke
- ▶ Don't dance
- ▶ Don't watch "R" rated movies
- ▶ Don't play cards
- ▶ Don't gamble
- ▶ Don't drink
- ▶ Don't run around
- ▶ Don't play the lottery
- ▶ Don't cheat on your taxes
- ▶ Don't kick your neighbors dog



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- **Proverbs 16:7** When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- He that has all hearts in his hand, can make a man's enemies to be at **peace** with him and turn your enemies into friends.

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- **Many of us are confused over who we are to please. We spend our whole life trying to please people who many times don't even like us.**
- **The blessings of God are not found in pleasing man but rather through pleasing God.**

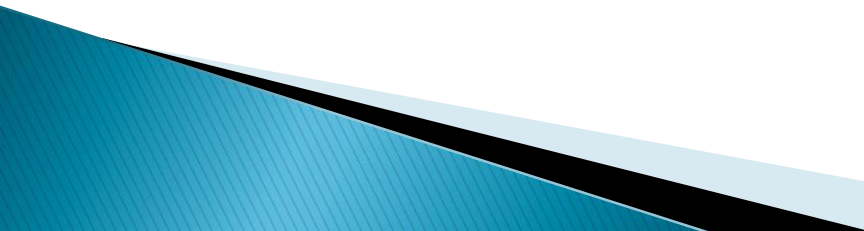
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- One of the problems is that we always convince ourselves that our way is the right way, when many times our way is the right way to us.

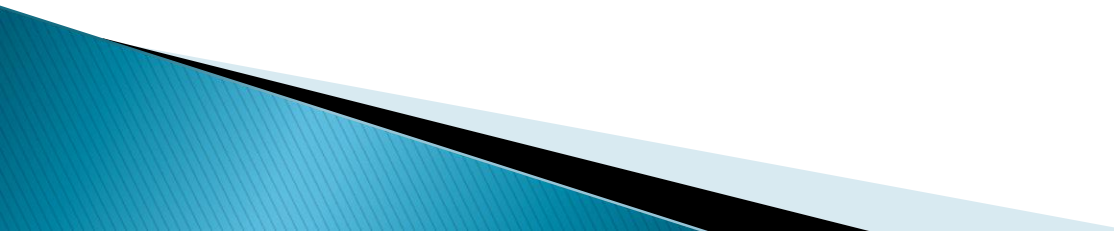
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- ▶ **Proverbs 16:25** There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
- ▶ **Proverbs 21:2** Every way of a man is **right** in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

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- **Proverbs 16:2** All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.
 - **Psalms 1:2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
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- **Psalm 25:4** Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.
 - **Psalm 27:11** Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path Because of my foes.
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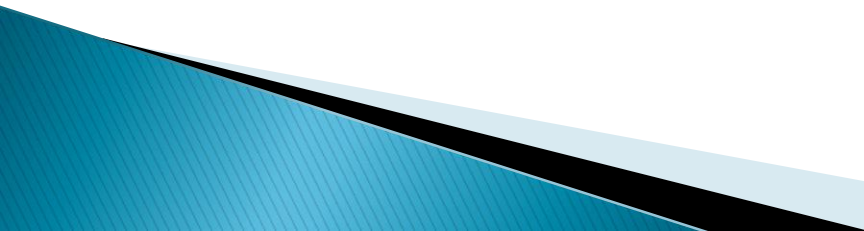
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- **Psalm 119:23** Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.
- **Psalm 119:48** And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Your statutes.

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- **Haggai 1:5-7** Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.
- ⁶Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink;

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- 6 cont'd ;ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.
 - 7Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.
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HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- 1. You please God when you ASK HIM FOR THE RIGHT THINGS.

1 Kings 3:9-10 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? [10] And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

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- **2. You please God when you are SEPARATED FOR HIM.**


2 Tim. 2:4 “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

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- **3. You please God when you are YIELDED TO HIM.**

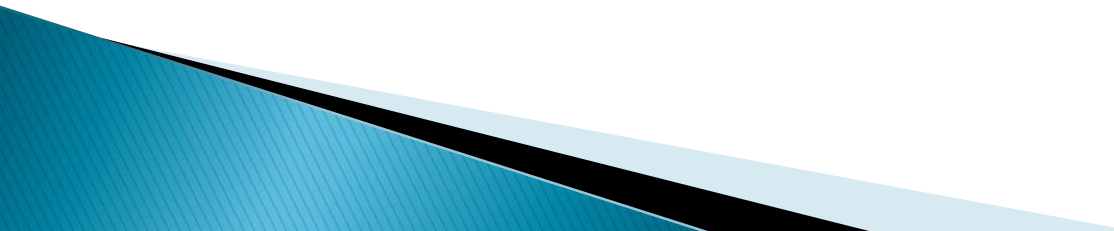
Hebrews 13:20–21

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.



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²¹Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”



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- 4. You please God when you are **WALKING WITH GOD.**

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

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- **5. You please God when you are PRAISING GOD.**

Psalm 69:30-31 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

³¹ This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

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- **6. You please God when you are YIELDED TO THE SPIRIT.**

Romans 8:4-8

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

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- **Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**
- **Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

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- **It is impossible to please God without faith.**

By faith is meant as a living, active faith, a faith that knows and follows God, communes and fellowships with God.

- **It does not matter what a person does; without faith he cannot please God.**
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- **7. You please God when you are APPLYING YOUR FAITH IN HIM**

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

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- **8. You please God when you are BEARING FRUIT**

John 15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

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QUIT

- **Why don't we just quit trying to impress God and just please Him. We don't have to try out before God.**
- **The Bible says there is more joy in Heaven over the saving of one soul than all that 99 righteous people can do.**

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The Life That Pleases God Bears Fruit

- **The idea of "bearing fruit" is not that foreign to us.**
- **If we purchased a fruit tree, planted it, and took care of it we would expect to be getting fruit from that tree in a matter of years.**

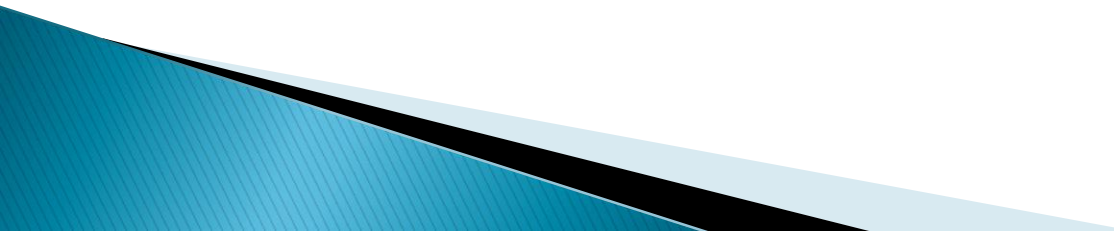
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- **If after many years the tree was not yielding fruit... We would feel that the tree was defective or really not a fruit tree at all.**
- **We might return to the Nursery where we purchased the tree and complain. The tree did not live up to the advertising.**

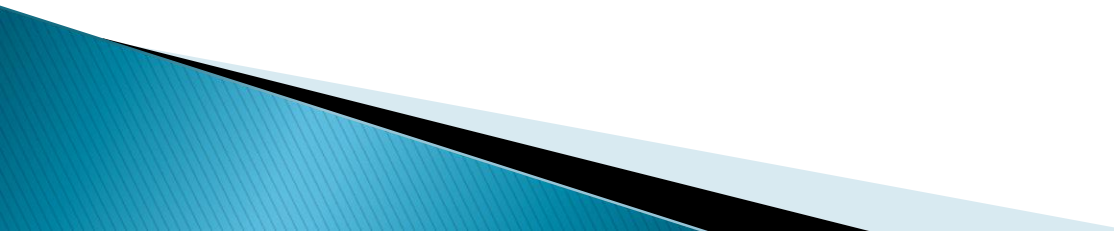
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- **“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.**
- **Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.” (Matt. 7:15-17)**

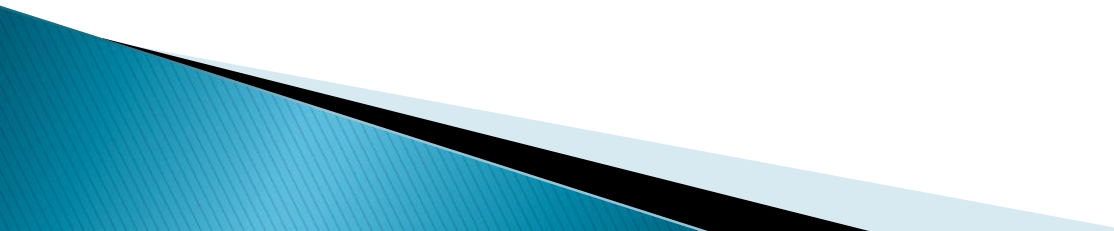
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- **How can we tell if someone is professing to be a believer, but isn't a believer? We can tell by watching their lives.**
 - **If there is not a change in their living then we can conclude there is no change in their soul. Our heart and our lives go together - they are not separate.**
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- **Now it is important that we remember that fruitfulness takes time.**
 - **You don't get any good fruit the first year you plant a fruit tree.**
 - **It takes time for the tree to mature. The same is true for followers of Christ.**
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- **The change might not be immediately discernable.**
 - **However, over time we should be seeing a difference in the way people live.**
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THE END

