

## WHOM DO YOU PLEASE IN YOUR RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES?

Intro. Existentialism theme of day. Explain. Look down fund. noses at exis theology in Tillich, exis. living in libertine or hippie, but we're caught up in it too. True aspects to it in Xny -pray, leading, but going too far today. "Red'd such a blessing (I know must be right)". Others were bless'd (must be right)". Something in Bible about it (so my perversion of it must be right)". Many of rel exp and mud within some exp is not what pleases God. We base our exp & their validity on our conceptn of what we think pleases Him instead of His statements of what pleases Him. He prob tolerates, puts up with much of our exp as parents do with kids' foolishness, immatur, unimportant, exp. Then child does something really pleasing to parent. If praying 1 thing for ch today with lack of depth, powerlessness, prayerlessness, foolishness (tongues), shallowness it would be Col. 1:9-10. Worthy has idea of weight. Walk on 1 side of scales, Lord on other. Should balance. Pleasing Him in every case, activity exp of life. Then if it pleases Him, it will give joy to me 4 ptc that follow seem to delineate areas. All presents.

I. Being fruitful in every good work. What kind of works please Lord?

1. Giving money, Phil 4:18.
  2. Giving up things, 2 Tim 2:4. Don't get too committed.
  3. Giving up liberty, Rom. 15:1-3. Not parading it.
- Giving self to Lord and others in service. Rom 8:8; 12:1-2. Then could say Jn 8:29.

II. Increasing in the knowledge of God.

Will know more specifics, principles and just <sup>about</sup> Him. Inviting me to lunch. What will we do with him. Give diary. Could relate detailed know of person to specifics that please Impt in Xn life bec affects-

1. Pleasing God in sanct. 1 Thess 4:1-3. Specifics follow.
2. Pleasing God in witness, 1 Thess 2:4. <sup>Col. 1:11</sup> Specifics follow.
3. Pleasing God in prayer, (Jn 15:7). 1 Jn 3:22.

To be effective in these areas requires ever inc. knowledge.

III. Being empowered with all power acc <sup>the perfect</sup> to might of His glory. (might used only of God in NT)

What will this do? (eis-with a view to). Not deeds of great spir. heroism but cultivation of passive virtues.

1. Patience-endurance with hope=fortitude. Heb 12:1. 2Th3:5.
2. Longsuffering (no retaliation). God is, Rom 2:4.

These please-don't fret if never do anything spectacular.

IV. Giving thanks, 12, for sal. Gives inheritance, 12; deliverance, 13; release, 14 (apolutrosis); forgiveness, 14. Only kind of sal exp that pleases God. Has it been yours?