

HE PLEASED GOD

May 27, 2018

Genesis 5:1-32

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”

Genesis 5:24

Enoch bypassed death and entered directly into heaven. Only Elijah shares this distinction with him. The text suggests that God translated him because he “walked with God.” Hebrews describes this translation, stating “that he pleased God” (11:5). These comments unite “walking with God” and “pleasing God” as one action.

How did Enoch please God? He did so by faith, for “without faith it is impossible to please him” (Hebrews 11:6). Such faith was evident when he prophesied that false teachers would arise, that Christ would come, and that He would come to judge false teachers for their anti-Christ speech (Jude 1:24, 25). For this, Enoch is recognized among the “heroes of faith” named in Hebrews 11.

How may you and I please God?

1. Without faith, it is impossible to please God

“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. 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.” (Hebrews 11:5, 6)

2. “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams”

“And Samuel said, *Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice*, and to hearken than the fat of rams. And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name’s sake: because *it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people*. (I Samuel 15:20-22)

3. “Ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God . . . for this is the will of God, even your sanctification.”

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that *as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God*, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification*, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter:

because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (I Thessalonians 4:1-6)

(over)

“So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please God.**” (Romans 8:8)

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 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.” (II Timothy 2:3-4)

4. **“A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”**

“For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: ***a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*** Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.” (Psalm 51:16-19)

“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:7-8)

5. **God is pleased with the prayer for wisdom for service to Him and His people.**

“And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. 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? ***And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*** And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.” (I Kings 3:8-12; see also I Corinthians 10:31)

6. **God is pleased with Christ. He is pleased when Christ is preeminent.**

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. ***For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell*** . . . For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 1:18-19; 2:9-10)

“For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (II Peter 1:17; see

also Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5).

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Hebrews 13:15-16)

“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs. The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God. For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners. (Psalm 69:30-33)