

Seeking God's Plan for Our Stewardship – The Discipline of Delight The Discipline of Delighting in God's Delights

Psalm 34:8 - *O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

Psalm 37:4 - *Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalm 36:7-8 - *How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.*

Isaiah 66:3-4 - *...As they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations, so I will choose their punishments and will bring on them what they dread. Because I called, but no one answered; I spoke, but they did not listen. And they did evil in My sight and chose that in which I did not delight.*

4 objects that bring God delight:

I. God Delights in His Son

John 1:1-3 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

Colossians 1:17 - *He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

Isaiah 42:1 - *Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights.*

A. Because Jesus was willing to be a servant

1. Isaiah 42 is the first of 4 "Servant Songs" in this book

cf. Isaiah 49:1-13, 50:4-11, 52:13-53:12

2. This demonstrates His humility

Philippians 2:7-8 - *but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

3. This characteristic summarizes the life of Christ on earth

Matthew 20:28 - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

B. Because Jesus was qualified to be the Chosen One

Christmas Series -- Seeking God's Plan for Our Messiah...

1. Our problem was enormous

Habakkuk 1:13 - Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor...

a. As soon as mankind sinned, the coming of the chosen Messiah was predicted

Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

b. The law and the sacrificial system pointed to Christ

Galatians 3:24 - Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

2. The coming of the solution was a joyous event

Luke 2:10-11 - But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

3. Jesus' obedience to the Father's plan brought God great delight

Matthew 3:17 - and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

4. This is especially true of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection

Isaiah 53:5 - But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

Isaiah 53:10 - But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

Isaiah 42:1 - *Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights.*

Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

II. God Delights in Your Rescue

A. Jesus has a place for the bruised reed and the smoking flax

Isaiah 42:3 - *A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish...*

B. God wants people to be rescued

2 Samuel 22:20 - *He also brought me forth into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.*

Micah 7:18 - *Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.*

III. God Delights in Corrective Discipline

Proverbs 3:12 - *For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

Hebrews 12:5-11 - *My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproveth by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives...All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

Psalms 119:71 - *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.*

James 1:2 - *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

Hebrews 12:10 - *For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.*

IV. God Delights in Your Obedience

A. Without it, religious activity is powerless

1 Samuel 15:22 - *Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."*

cf. Psalm 51:16; Hosea 6:6-8, 8:13; Amos 5:21; Micah 6:7

B. Obedience produces delicious fruit

1. Dependent prayer

Proverbs 15:8 - *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.*

2. Ethical dealings with others

Proverbs 11:1 - *A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight.*

Proverbs 12:22 - *Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight.*

3. A blameless walk

Proverbs 11:20 - *The perverse in heart are an abomination to the Lord, But the blameless in their walk are His delight.*

4. A generous heart

1 Chronicles 29:17 - *Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You.*

Jeremiah 9:23-24 - *Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.*

Psalm 147:10-11 - *His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.*