

I once read about a concert violinist who performed a concert and when he finished playing the audience he played to stood to their feet in applause. However, the violinist put his face in his hands and wept. The people around him said, "Don't weep. Look at the audience. They loved your performance." But he kept weeping while the people around him tried to encourage him even more, "Look at the audience, they're all standing," however the violinist said, "Not all of them are standing." The violinist said, "See that man down there? He's not standing." The people said, "Yes, but he's only just one man." The violinist said, "I know, but he is my teacher and if he is not pleased, I am not pleased." Brothers and sisters in Christ, let me tell you something. It doesn't matter if we please the entire world. If we please the entire world and don't, please Jesus, then we have truly failed in what it means to live for the Lord. However, if we do, please Jesus then it truly doesn't matter who we would displease, because only Jesus' opinion of us should matter in life. In fact, Jesus one time warned His followers that the world was going to hate them because of what they believed about Him, and we are truly seeing the prophecy of those words fulfilled in the times in which we live. Therefore, Jesus would encourage us by saying, if the world hates you for believing in Me, just keep in mind they hated Me first. If the world hates me for believing that Jesus is the only Way, and the only Truth, and the only Life and no one comes to the Father except through Him, then so be it. I would pray that all of us have the faith of Paul who told the Galatian church, "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:10-12 ESV). Paul was a God please more than he was a man pleaser. May we be the same. May we look forward to that day when we first arrive in Heaven to hear Jesus say of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Those words, my friends, will be the sweetest words you'll ever hear in all of life. God bless.