

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

EPHESIANS 5: 8 - 14

- 1. Remember you were darkness and are now light - and live accordingly (8-9)**
- 2. Make pleasing God the goal of your life (10)**
 - God has many pleasures!
 - We can contribute to them!
 - How can we please God?
- 3. Let your God-pleasing life bring light into dark places (11-14)**
 - Light exposes darkness
 - Light transforms darkness

TEN WAYS TO PLEASE GOD

1. **Trusting God Hebrews 11: 5**

Without faith it is impossible to **please** God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

2. **Praising God and meditating joyfully on him Psalm 104:33-4**

I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. 34 May my meditation be **pleasing** to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

3. **Offering ourselves to God Romans 12:1**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and **pleasing** to God

4. **Praying for the human world 1 Tim. 2:1-3**

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and **pleases** God our Saviour.

5. **Col 1:10 Looking out for people in need and...**

6. **Getting to know God better.**

And we pray this in order that you may ...please God in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God

7. Putting the spiritual health of other Christians first Romans 14: 15-18

If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.....anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God.

8. Treating your relatives appropriately Colossians 3: 20 1 Timothy 5:4

- Children obey your parents in everything for this **pleases** the Lord.
- But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is **pleasing** to God.

9. Giving generously Phil 4:18

I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, **pleasing** to God.

10. Taking an honest approach to business – Proverbs 11:1

The Lord abhors dishonest scales but accurate weights are his delight

And the result:

Psalm 149: 4

The Lord takes delight in his people, he crowns the humble
with his salvation