

Scripture: Ps. 147 #17 Series: *Knowing God*
Singing: 256:1, 2, 5 – 88:1-3 – 233:1, 3, 6 – 403:1-3

Intro: Ignorance of God is both dangerous and damaging!

DISPLEASING OR PLEASING THE LORD

I. The displeasing of the LORD II. The pleasing of the LORD

I. The displeasing of the LORD

A. God isn't hiding fact that certain people displease Him (Ps. 147:10)

1. That's not a fact any should ignore or shrug off: Prov. 1:24-33; 29:1

2. Jesus warns that much of our fear is misplaced: Matt. 10:28 (Ps. 96:13)

B. Who among us is God displeased with? (vs. 10)

1. Those of us who *rely upon any source of strength beside Him* (Is. 30:1-2)

2. Why is He displeased with such?

3. If God is displeased with us, we ought to give earnest heed: Deut. 30:15-20

II. The pleasing of the LORD

A. The Lord takes real pleasure in certain people among us (Ps. 147:11)

1. those who fear Him:

2. those *who hope in His mercy*

B. God is encouraging us as Christians *who seek to walk in fear & trust Lord*

1. A. W. Tozer: *From a failure to properly understand God comes a world of unhappiness among good Christians even today. The Christian life is thought to be a glum, unrelieved cross-carrying under the eye of a stern*

Father, who expects much and excuses nothing. To too many He is seen as a grim, irritable, unpredictable and extremely hard to please.

2. He reveals that He is pleased with all you who trust and obey Him

a. not because your trust and obedience are flawless

b. because He accepts you through Christ in whom you, by His grace, have put your trust

C. But what about Is. 64:6: *all our righteous deeds are filthy rags?*

1. Who did Isaiah address? (See Is. 66:3; 1; 58)

a. without sincere (efforts at) obedience and trust in Him, He is offended by our most strict expressions of worship

b. God is displeased when *we make* faulty deeds the basis of salvation

2. But God's children's efforts to do righteous deeds are not filthy in His sight

a. Ps. 147:11 compared with

- Romans 12:1, 14:18
- Col. 1:10 & Col. 3:20
- 1 Thess. 2:4 - 1 Tim. 2:1-3
- 1 Tim. 5:4 - Heb. 13:16 - 1 John 3:22

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves,
God takes most notice of them. (M. Henry)

Although the Lord's disciples are to be seen doing good,
they must not do good in order to be seen.