

Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry
Series 1: Lesson #5
“Planned for God’s Pleasure”, Part C
from *The Purpose Driven Life*¹

Key Points summary from previous lessons

- It is not about me!
- We were born *by* God’s purpose and *for* His purpose.
- God planned every person; no one was born by “accident”.
- We discover our meaning and purpose only when God is the reference point of our lives.
- Living with purpose is living with peace.
- Our lifetime on earth is only a moment of our lifetime in eternity.
- Life on earth is a dress rehearsal for eternity.
- My view of life determines how I will live my life.
- Life on earth is both a test and a trust.
- Life on earth is a temporary assignment.
- It is all for Him!
- We were created by God for His pleasure.
- Anything we do that brings glory and pleasure to God is worship.
- If we do not worship God, we will worship something else.
- Worship is a result of being in love with Jesus.
- Worship is not a part of your life; it IS your life.
- Five ways to worship God that please Him:
 - Love Him.
 - Trust Him.
 - Obey Him.
 - Praise and thank Him.
 - Be ourselves.
- The heart of worship is surrender.
- Fear, pride, and confusion get in the way of our surrender.
- The blessings of surrender include: peace, freedom, God’s power in our life.
- God wants to be my best friend.
- We become best friends with God
 - by constant conversation, i.e. prayer.
 - by mediation on His Word.
 - by being completely honest.
 - by choosing to obey in faith.
 - by choosing to value what God values.
 - by making it our highest priority.
- We are as close to God as we choose to be.

Day 13: Worship That Pleases God

To live a worshipful life that pleases God, He wants ALL of me - _____, _____, _____, and _____.

In John 4:23 we learn that God expects our worship to be in _____ and in _____.

In what ways can I make my worship real or authentic in order to please God?

In what ways can I make my worship accurate in order to please God?

How can I be a living sacrifice in worship to God?

Prayer focus: "Father, I want to bring you pleasure today by loving you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Help me to identify and develop the sacred pathway that fits how you created me to know you."
(² Day 13)

Verse to remember: Mark 12:30 (NIV)
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Other verses to study:

Hebrews 12:28	John 4:23	1 Samuel 16:7
Hebrews 13:15	Psalms 7:17	Ezra 3:11
Psalms 149:3	Psalms 150:3	Nehemiah 8:6
Matthew 6:7	1 Corinthians 14:40	1 Corinthians 14:16-17
Romans 12:1	Psalms 50:14	Hebrews 13:15

Psalm 51:17

Psalm 54:6

Philippians 4:18

Psalm 141:2

Hebrews 13:16

Mark 12:33

Romans 12:1

2 Samuel 24:24

Focus Point: God wants *all* of me.

To reflect on: Which is more pleasing to God right now – my public worship or my life worship? What will I do about this.

Day 14: When God Seems Distant

Why are our emotions (feelings) not reliable in gauging our relationship with God?

If God never leaves us or abandons us, why does it sometimes seem that He has?

Why would He remain silent?

It is our _____, not our feelings, that pleases God.

How can admitting my hopelessness and feelings of abandonment to God be a statement of faith?

Even when we don't "feel" God, we must _____ Him to keep His _____.

Prayer focus: “God, when I don’t hear your voice or feel your presence, help me to seek you, not a feeling. Then help me remember your promise that you will never leave me nor forsake me.” (2 Day 14)

Verse to remember: Hebrews 13:5 (TEV)

For God has said, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.”

Other verses to study:

1 Samuel 13:14	Acts 13:22	Psalms 10:1
Psalms 22:1	Psalms 43:2	Deuteronomy 31:8
Psalms 37:28	John 14:16-18	Hebrews 13:5
Isaiah 45:15	Job 23:8-10	Psalms 51
Ephesians 4:29-30	1 Thessalonians 5:19	Jeremiah 2:32
1 Corinthians 8:12	James 4:4	Job 1:20-21
Job 7:11	Job 29:4	Psalms 116:10
Job 10:12	Job 42:2	Job 37:5,23
Job 23:10	Job 31:4	Job 34:13
Job 23:14	Job 19:25	Job 23:12
Job 13:15	2 Corinthians 5:21	

Focus point: God is real, no matter how I feel.

To ponder: How can I stay focused on God’s presence, especially when He feels distant?

Conclusion

In this lesson, we have looked at several human examples of how to live a life of worship that is pleasing to God. The best example of all, however, is Jesus. His life was a living example of loving God with his mind, heart, soul, and strength. During His life, He loved God by using His mind to

teach God's will and His heart to show God's love and compassion. He connected with God at the soul level by being obedient to His Father in every way and communicating with Him about everything.

The use of His physical strength was best shown during His last hours when He had been beaten so badly and lost so much blood that He could hardly stand up, yet He never gave up. He carried the cross. When He had been stripped naked and hung upon the cross for the whole world to see and mock, He still loved God and He still loved us. He wasn't a living sacrifice, He was THE living sacrifice! Because of His love for us and His obedience to His Father, He willingly took upon Himself the sin of all mankind. In so doing, for the first time in eternity, He was separated from God all because of our sin. God could not look at Sin and had to turn His face away. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus remained faithful even when God was silent. "Jesus could have saved Himself, but then He could not have saved us." (p. 112)

Why did He do this? For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)**

"Jesus gave up everything so we could have everything. He died so we could live – forever. That alone is worthy of our continual thanks and praise. Never again should we wonder what we have to be thankful for." (p. 113)

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References:

¹ Warren, Rick. ***The Purpose Driven Life***. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

² Warren, Rick. ***The Purpose Driven Life Prayer Journal***. Inspirio, 2002.
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This lesson was prepared for you and presented by volunteers from Campus Church of Christ. We believe that the Bible is the holy, inspired, Word of God in which He has revealed to us Himself, His love and His plan for us. We teach no other doctrine than that found in the Bible, and we ask that you examine all teaching from us or anyone else to be sure that it is accurate according to the Bible.

If you are seeking a church family with whom to worship and to grow in your faith, we invite you to Campus Church of Christ, 1525 Indian Trail Rd., Norcross, GA 30093. You may visit us online at www.campuschurch.org. Sunday morning worship services are at 8:30 and 11:00. We have Bible classes for all ages at 9:45. Sunday evening, we meet at 6:00 and Wednesday evening at 7:00.

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