

23-0709p Transcript

23-0709p - *Pleasing God, Part 2, Mike Mathis*

Bible Reader: Roger Raines

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Pleasing God, Part 2

Transcript (0:03 - 31:46)

Scripture Reading

Bible Reader: Roger Raines

Hebrews 11:5-6,

(0:03) Good evening. Good evening, Walter. I'll be reading from the book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 5 and 6. Hebrews 11, 5 and 6.

(0:20) By faith, Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death, and he was not found because God took him up. For he obtained the witness that before being taken up, he was pleasing to God. (0:36) And without faith, it is impossible to please him. For he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him. This concludes this reading. (0:54)

Transcript

Preacher: Mike Mathis

(0:59) Good evening to those that are here, and physically at the building, to the visitors, and those that are on the phone. (1:14) Good evening.

We want to welcome you and hope that what we say and do tonight will be uplifting to you. (1:28) And I will continue with the lesson that was started this morning of pleasing God. (1:39) Now, just quickly to highlight what was said this morning, that it should be our desire to please God.

(1:59) And Proverbs 16, 7 says that when a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. (2:16) And it's easy to please God, because God says what he means, and he means what he says, and he's straightforward with it. He's not wishy-washy.

He doesn't change it. (2:35) And what then is will? He is not for man to tamper with. (2:46) We learn some things that are not pleasing to God, such as the things that are mentioned in Proverbs 16 and 19 that God hates.

(3:03) And being in the flesh and vain worship. There are such things as vain worship. (3:15) Then we talked mainly about what pleases God.

(3:23) We talked about children being obedient to parents, being commanded to obey their parents. (3:34) In Colossians 3, 20, it says, (3:36) Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to God. (3:47) And there is some advice to the fathers to bring up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord.

(4:00) It is the fathers who need to have the responsibility to teach the children. (4:13) But nowadays it seems as if what is supposed to be the parents' job seems to be handed over to the schools. (4:26) The schools are giving the children, the students, anything and everything, whether it pleases parents or not.

(4:43) But then, let's continue in this discussion. (4:53) And the reading that Roger read in your hearing was speaking about iniquity. (5:07) We learn in Genesis 5, beginning with verse 21, (5:18) Enoch lived 65 years and begot Methuselah.

(5:25) After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had sons and daughters. (5:35) So all the days of Enoch were 365 years. (5:42) And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

(5:49) The Hebrew writer then says that Enoch had this witness, or had this testimony, that he pleased God. (6:09) Walking with God meant that Enoch looked to God and he followed the will that God wanted him in that patriarchal age to do. (6:31) And he was pleasing to God.

(6:37) And it says that by faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death and was not found because God had taken him. (6:57) For before he was taken, he had this testimony that he pleased God. (7:05) Now, are we walking with God? (7:13) To be walking with God would mean to be obedient to Him, to be seeking Him, to make the sacrifices that He expects us to make.

(7:31) We are obedient to Him. (7:34) That is what walking with God is. (7:40) And there are those people that would decry doing things, and they call it, and they say all we have to do is to believe.

(8:01) But in this chapter, if these people were raised, this is known as the hall of faith. (8:16) And these people have faith. (8:21) The people that have faith such as Abel, it is by faith that Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

(8:36) It was by faith that Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death and he was not found because God had taken him. (8:49) And that was because it is stated here that he pleased God, that God let him not see death. (9:07) And in verse 6 it says, but without faith it is impossible to please God.

(9:16) For he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. (9:31) So faith is necessary to please God. (9:36) But these people in this book, if they were studied, they would know that these people by faith did something.

(9:47) They had faith. (9:49) And they did things that God told them to do. (9:55) And so if we are going to be pleasing to God, we must have faith.

(10:06) And we must realize that God is. (10:10) We come to him. (10:12) We must believe that he is,

that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

(10:23) If we seek him, we will be rewarded. (10:34) Another thing that pleases God is worshiping God in spirit and in truth. (10:46) In the Gospel of John, chapter 4, beginning with verse 21, Jesus is talking to a Samaritan woman.

(11:08) Jesus said to her, Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem worship the Father. (11:23) You worship what you do not know. (11:27) We know what we worship for salvation is of the Jews.

(11:35) But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. (11:46) For the Father is seeking such to worship him. (11:54) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

(12:03) Notice that he said spirit and truth. (12:11) Sometimes people have the spirit or the attitude to worship God, but they don't do it according to truth. (12:21) As we learned this morning, when the Pharisees confronted Jesus as to why his disciples did not eat with washing hands as these leaders did, (12:40) they went through a ritual in cleaning their hands, making sure that their hands were really clean.

(12:56) They wanted to know why they didn't keep the tradition of the elders. (13:04) Well, he asked them, why do you transgress the commandment of God? (13:18) They wanted so much to be listened to when it comes to their ritual, their command in washing their hands. (13:31) And yet when it comes to obeying God's commandment, namely that of the children, honoring their father and mother, (13:49) and this is talking about when these children have become old enough, (13:55) and the parents of these children have grown old, that they have a responsibility.

(14:07) Since the parents care for them, they need to honor them and support them. (14:18) And he says, and then God said that these that did not honor father and mother were to be put to death. (14:33) You know, those two men, I don't personally know them, but my brother back home, he was telling me about these boys cursing their mother, even beating her.

(15:00) And I just thought to myself, it is fortunate that these boys didn't grow up under the law of Moses as Jewish children. (15:19) These boys would have been subject to death if the people would keep their law. (15:31) But these religious leaders paid so much attention to their traditions.

(15:40) And Jesus was telling them that their worship was in vain. (15:47) They had vain worship. (15:50) There is such a thing as vain worship, that is empty worship.

(15:55) There is such a thing as worshiping God in spirit and in truth. (16:01) And we need to do both. (16:03) We need to have the spirit.

(16:07) We also need to have the truth. (16:10) Sometimes we get carried away. (16:13) We have the truth, but sometimes we don't have the spirit.

(16:20) But we need both. (16:21) If we are going to please God, for God is seeking worship that pleases Him, and it must be done in spirit and in truth. (16:37) Now, going from the Gospel of John now to the first letter of John, I'm going to read 1 John 3, beginning with 22 and reading 24.

(17:02) And whatever we ask, we receive from Him. (17:09) Because we keep His commandments

and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (17:19) This is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as He gave us commandments.

(17:36) Now, He who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in Him. (17:44) And by this we know that He abides in us by the spirit whom He has given us. (17:54) This spirit here is capitalized.

(17:58) The S is capitalized. (18:00) It means the Holy Spirit. (18:03) But here is what is pleasing in His sight, that we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

(18:18) One of those things is that we believe on the name of Jesus Christ. (18:26) Now, a person that is not a Christian is told to believe, to believe the Gospel. (18:40) And is told to believe this.

(18:45) That is the start. (18:50) Jesus said that He that believeth in me, I forget now how to say something about it. (19:09) Except you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.

(19:15) But it is important to believe on the name of Jesus Christ. (19:21) This will lead one, or should lead one, to obey Him and follow His commandment that he should turn away from sin, (19:34) and be buried in baptism for the remission of his sins. (19:39) He should continue believing on the name of Jesus Christ.

(19:46) We are commanded to love one another. (19:53) It says that he who keeps His commandments abides in Him. (20:01) This reminds me of what Jesus said in the 15th chapter of the Gospel of John, (20:12) when He is telling them about the Father being the husband man and He being divine.

(20:24) He told His disciples to abide in Me and I in you. (20:33) As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, (20:39) neither can you unless you abide in Me. (20:46) I am the vine, you are the branches.

(20:51) He who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit. (20:58) For without Me you can do nothing. (21:03) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered.

(21:12) And they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are burned. (21:21) Well, He says abide in Me and I in you. (21:28) Now, unless we abide in Him, we cannot bear fruit of our own selves (21:39) because it needs to abide in the vine, needs to be living in the vine.

(21:49) And if it is separated from the vine, it is dead. (21:54) Along the way it will wither and it will be cast forth (22:02) and they burn these branches that are withered and are no good. (22:12) But now what does that mean to abide in Him? (22:16) Well, let's go on and read here.

(22:21) If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, (22:26) you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you. (22:33) By this My Father is glorified that you bear much fruit, (22:40) so you will be My disciples. (22:43) As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you.

(22:50) Abide in My love. (22:55) Here is the answer. (22:57) If you love Me, if you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, (23:07) just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

(23:14) These things I have spoken to you, (23:17) that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full. (23:25) This is My commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. (23:34)

That's one of those commandments.

(23:39) And that is the commandment that He's giving here, that we love one another. (23:47) And this is the commandments. (23:52) If we're not going to keep His commandments, (23:58) we're not going to abide in Him, (24:01) and He certainly is not going to abide in us.

(24:06) And we're not going to please God if we're not going to obey His Son, (24:15) because the Father sent Him, (24:19) and Jesus has obeyed God's commands. (24:27) Just as He came to this earth, (24:32) He willingly went to the cross to die for us. (24:37) He was in the grave three days, (24:41) and He arose on the third day.

(24:43) That gives us hope. (24:47) And if we keep His commandments, He abides in us. (24:54) We abide in Him, and He abides in us.

(24:59) So we need to keep His commandments. (25:05) By this we know the Son will maybe ask the question, (25:11) someone may pop the question, (25:15) now how do we know when we aren't doing what God wants us to do? (25:23) We're supposed to read in His Word those things that we need to read. (25:31) But if we're wanting to know, (25:37) here is what He says in chapter 5, (25:45) beginning with verse 13.

(25:49) These things I have written to you, (25:52) who believe in the name of the Son of God, (25:56) that you may know, K-N-O-W, (26:01) that you have eternal life, (26:05) and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (26:13) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, (26:17) that if we ask Him according to His will, (26:22) we have asked of Him. (26:25) In other words, we can know because of what is written.

(26:31) We can know that we don't need to make a checklist, (26:39) but when we read what's in the Word, (26:44) we can know if we've kept that or not, (26:47) or if we've just let it go. (26:50) But we need to keep these commandments in order to please God. (26:58) Now in conclusion, I want to read from 1 Thessalonians.

(27:05) I want to read several passages from 1 Thessalonians. (27:17) And the first one is 1 Thessalonians 2 and verse 4. (27:33) But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, (27:41) even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. (27:52) We need to realize that God is the one that is testing our hearts, (28:00) and He is the one that we need to please.

(28:05) Now in the same chapter, in verse 15, (28:12) I'm going to read verse 14. (28:57) So these people do not please God when they persecuted the prophets, (29:06) when they even killed the prophets, and also the Lord Jesus. (29:16) They persecuted them, and they did not please God when they did that.

(29:25) But it was in God's determinate counsel that Jesus died at the hands of unruly men. (29:36) Now the last passage in 1 Thessalonians is chapter 4, verses 1 and 2. (29:48) Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus (29:54) that you should abound more and more just as you received from us (30:01) how you ought to walk and please God, (30:09) for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. (30:18) You see, it ought to be that we want to please God, (30:24) not self and not our fellow man.

(30:29) Because you see, you try to please man, (30:33) you're going to get frustrated because we

need to please Him. (30:45) So the invitation that I want to give now is (30:51) let us, right now, if we're not pleasing God, (30:58) to start doing what is pleasing in His sight. (31:02) Let us keep His commandments.

(31:05) Let us do what is pleasing to Him. (31:12) Because, as I said, it's easy to please God because He is straightforward. (31:20) And He says what He means, and He means what He says.

(31:26) And if there's anyone there that wants to start pleasing Him, do that now. (31:37) And if there's any other thing that you want to be made known, (31:42) why not do so while we stand and while we sing.