

"We aim to please."

As a church, we aim to please as well. But our primary aim is not to please the public (at least it better not be). Our desire is to please the One whose opinion alone matters in the light of eternity--the Lord Jesus Christ.

How can we be a church that pleases the Lord? That's an important question. Heb 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to PLEASE Him." Jesus testified in Jn 8:29, "The Father hath not left me alone. I do always those things that PLEASE Him." Churches that please God are churches comprised of people who follow in the Savior's steps, with this consuming ambition--to please Him.

What is true of a church that pleases the Lord? We have the record of a church that pleased the Lord in Revelation 3:7-13. Jesus was pleased with the church at Philadelphia. We can learn how to please the Lord as a church by considering what Christ had to say in His sixth letter to the churches.

Proposition: If we are to be a church that pleases the Lord, we must focus on three matters revealed in Revelation 3:7-13.

- I. We must focus on the Character of the Lord (7).
 - A. He is holy.
 - B. He is true.
 - C. He is sovereign.
- II. We must focus on the Commendation of the Lord (8-10).

Christ commends a church with two commitments...

 - A. The church must be committed to its mission (8).
 1. The church used its strength.
 2. The church kept the Word.
 3. The church did not deny Jesus.
 - B. The church must be committed to endurance (9-10).

Two promises that will enable us to endure...

 1. Jesus will take care of the antagonists (9).
 2. Jesus will take care of us (10).
 - *He will deliver the church.
 - *He will try the world.
- III. We must focus on the Coming of the Lord (11-13).

How?

 - A. We must live like we believe He is coming (11).
 - B. We must know He will reward those who do (12-13).
 1. He will give a special position.
 2. He will give a special name.

***Note: This is an unedited manuscript of a message preached at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. It is provided to prompt your continued reflection on the practical truths of the Word of God.

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