Devotion #284

**Created for His Pleasure**

**Philippians 2:13 (NASB)** *“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure*.”

Contrary to what our minds tell us, this life is not about us. That may be a shocking revelation and even sound a little weird to some, but it is true. God did not create us so that we could just enjoy life like we want and do what we want and have things the way we want. That is from our sinful desires, not God. God created us to be a joy to His heart so that He would take pleasure in His creation.

From a sinful point of view that is humbling. Humbling because we desire so much to make life about us. We are constantly under the impression, self-created or taught, that we are the center of our universe. But the truth is, God is the center of the universe. In fact, one of the biggest problems with our world is that man thinks he is in charge and should be the focus of everything. The problem is that every person feels that way in their sinful hearts. So when you put everyone together with sinful intentions to be the top dog, you have real mess.

God knows our tendency to want the top spot. That’s why He had the Apostle Paul write what He did to the church in Philippi. Just before Paul wrote our verse for today, He reminded the church about Christ and how He lived His life on earth. Here is a sampling of what Paul said, **Philippians 2:3-7 (NASB)** *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men*.” The point is that Jesus is the model of how we are to live. Then Paul added the encouraging words saying that God is the one who has to do the work in us. He even must give us the will to do the work for Him and even the desire to do the work for Him. Why? Because He knows we will get lost in doing and living life our own way.

It is true, if we are being honest, that we struggle to do what God wants over what we want. Every time you and I get irritated or upset about something, it is usually because we are afraid or we are not getting our way. Both originate from the same thing. We think life is about us, so we get angry or afraid when we can’t control something or someone. Both reactions are a result of wanting life to be a certain way for us.

But God didn’t create us for our own desires. Don’t get me wrong; He certainly wants us to enjoy the life He has given us and enjoy our achievements and rewards for working hard, but in it all He wants us to remember all we do is for His pleasure - for His enjoyment as He watches us live for Him and do His work. What that means is, our minds should be always desiring to follow Him and do what He wants for us to do, simply because He is God and we are not.

Remember the words Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. **Ephesians 1:5 (NASB)** *“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will*.” What does that mean? In means that God called us, chose us, and adopted us as sons and daughters, not for our pleasure, but for His pleasure, so we would live our lives always wanting His will in our lives, not ours. The good news is that God only has our best interests at heart. He gives us life, an abundant life, not a perfect life or a life that we think we should have, but a life where He is the focus and the one who gets the praise.

The best thing you and I can do each day is thank the Lord for the gift of life and do all we can to follow His will and plan for us. Teach the children that God is the center of life and they are not. Don’t make everything such a big deal, especially with the things we can’t fix. But enjoy Him and enjoy the people in our lives, because one day this will all be over and the only thing that will matter is how God feels about us and whether or not we served Him faithfully.