

BIBLE INSIGHT

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

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Is God Happy With Me? (Adapted from Day 9 of Rick Warren's: *A Purpose Driven Life*)

I. Introduction

A. The first purpose of our life – to please God. (Eph. 5:10 – "...*finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.*")

B. Our example – Noah. (Gen. 6:8 – *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*)

1. The world was totally given over to evil – except Noah.
2. From the life of Noah we learn five actions that we can emulate to make God happy with us.

II. God is Happy When I:

A. Love Him Supremely

1. Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:9). He followed God's will and kept a close relationship with God.
2. What then does God want from us as a pledge of our love? Sacrifices and offerings? God desires mercy and knowledge more than either of these (Hos. 6:6) God wants our love! It is His first and greatest commandment (Mt. 22:37,38).

B. Trust Him Completely

1. Even when God's commands to Noah were not according to human wisdom, Noah trusted God implicitly. See Heb. 11:7. Noah had three opportunities to doubt:
 - a. He had never experienced rain (as indicated in Gen 2:5,6),
 - b. He lived hundreds of miles from any ocean, and
 - c. How could the entire animal kingdom ever be rounded up?
2. God was happy with Noah because of his unquestioning trust. (*The Lord takes pleasure in his worshippers, and in those*

That this may have been a miscarriage of justice is suggested by the following. Miss Stewart was pretty well hated by the media and Eastern elite. I wondered why; then it occurred to me that her focus was on domestic things, which others derided as perfection in homemaking. She glamorized the home. Ah, now we see the reason professional female feminists hated her. Even though she was a professional and very hard worker, employing thousands of people, she glorified homemaking. A person so publicly disliked, especially by women TV commentators, would make an inviting target for ambitious Prosecutors.

The original charge was insider trading. Since her information came from a stock broker and not a principal involved in the business, or from a connected family member, this did not hold up. Then the major remaining charge, "fraud and obstruction of justice," was thrown out by the judge because that charge was not related to any crime she was charged with. That left the jury to determine such details as to whether she really made a decision to sell stock at the \$60.00 level ahead of time, or after she learned the owner of the company was trying to sell his. Most people would have sold upon learning that from a broker, without any problem.

She did alter a phone record, fearful of being charged because the stock plummeted shortly after her sale. Such falls prompt investigation about who sold and why? But then she changed it back to its original content. There was some defensive covering, but was there a crime? Observers thought that when the judge tossed out the charge of her having committed fraud when she claimed her innocence, that the jury would get the message that there was little evidence of actual laws being broken. The jury convicted her anyhow, with that warning to "the rich and powerful," indicating that envy had a lot to do with the conviction.

Censure her for lying, if indeed she did, and tell her to learn more about humility and honesty. But to convict a person and send her to jail because we do not like her, and thus out of envy destroy her business and putting people out of work, is a miscarriage of justice and a moral crime in itself. And the reasons given show envious, small, and shriveled souls.

The Wise Man of old said, "Envy is the rottenness of the bones" (Prov. 14:30). Whenever one has felt envy, isn't that a good description of what it feels like? As children of God we have too much to be thankful for to be envying those who prosper now, but who will pay later. Or to envy anyone else.

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MONTHLY BIBLE READING: How to be saved from Sin – Acts and the Epistles

whose hope is in his mercy. (BBE), Ps. 147:11) This type of trust calls for faith – faith that God will keep His promises. “Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

C. Obey Him Sincerely, Enthusiastically, and Absolutely

1. In a word – wholeheartedly. Noah had to follow God’s instructions to the letter. (Gen. 6:22 - *Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.* (NKJV)) Noah overlooked none of God’s plan and completed it in the way God wanted it done.
2. Obedience without reservation or procrastination. Delayed obedience is disobedience! Some commands of God cannot even be understood unless they are first obeyed.
3. Partial obedience will not tide us over with God. The Bible is not a Chinese menu, it is our guidebook. David said: *Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end.* (NKJV), Ps. 119:33). (*You see that a man’s righteousness is judged by his works and not by his faith only.* (BBE), Jms. 2:24).
4. Obedience is proof of our love (Jn. 14:15).

D. Praise and Thank Him Continually

1. Noah’s first act after leaving the ark was to build an altar and worship God (Gen. 8:20).
2. In lieu of animal sacrifice the Christian is to offer praise (*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.* (NKJV), Heb. 13:15.) The psalmist suggests that we offer the praise of thanksgiving and praise His name in song, rejoice in His presence and shout for joy. (Ps. 116:17; 69:30,31; 68:3.)

E. Use My Abilities

1. God told Noah and his family to replenish the earth and use the animals and land to live and prosper. But all of that would take work. Secular, manual, get your hands dirty, be pregnant for nine months, WORK. Ps. 37:23 - *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.* (NKJV)
2. Excepting sin, all of our activities can be done to God’s glory – he is happy when you use the abilities He has blessed you with as long as you are working according to his will.
3. He expects you to be you and me to be me. (*Woe to him who strives with his Maker, an earthen vessel with the potter! Does the clay say to him who fashions it, “What are you*

making’? or ‘Your work has no handles’? (RSV), Isa. 45:9.) There are no unspiritual abilities, just ones that are misused. Think about it!

III. Conclusion

A. God is happy with me as His child when I develop and grow according to His plan.

1. He enjoys seeing me at every stage of my development and is saddened only when I stop taking proper nourishment and stop growing (1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12,13.)
2. He will not expect more than he knows we can give (*For he has knowledge of our feeble frame; he sees that we are only dust.* (BBE) Ps. 103:14)

B. Is making God happy your deepest desire?

1. This was Paul’s goal regardless of where he was located – (Therefore we are also laboring to be well-pleasing to Him, whether at home or away from home. (MKJV) 2 Cor. 5:9.)
2. How much pleasure is God getting out of your life?
3. Can you be a 21st century Noah – he is looking for persons made of the same mettle – (Ps. 14:2 - *The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.* (NKJV))
4. Our personal spiritual happiness hinges on whether or not God is happy with us!

[**Editor’s Note:** While I commend Rick Warren’s book, please be advised that his views can be denominational. As with the writings of any non-inspired man – read with caution.]

Envy by Dale Smelser

(Reprinted from <http://www.wildercroft-church-of-christ.org/>)

Envy is a very ugly character trait. Thus God tells us not even to envy those who do unrighteousness (Psm. 37:1). We may condemn their sins, but envy messes us up as much as they are, just in a different way. Paul says that envy indicates carnality (I Cor. 3:3).

For an illustration of the ugliness of envy, one may examine the trial and conviction of Martha Stewart. I have some issues with this woman. She has supported things contrary to Gods' standards, and as a Christian, any public figure advancing such has my opposition. But her conviction *evidently* was based *largely* on envy. One juror being interviewed proudly said the conviction would send a message to the "rich and powerful." Others resented her stylish flair.