Northwest Bible Church – June 18, 2023 – 1 Thess. – Alan Conner

**1 Thess. 4:1-2**

Pleasing God

Intro

 Sanctification: what is it and why is it important?

**A. EXCEL STILL MORE IN A SANCTIFIED LIFE (1).**

 1. They were taught how they ought to walk and please God (1).

 a. Walk -

 b. Please God -

 2. They actually do walk this way.

 3. Excel still more.

**B. REMEMBER OUR PREVIOUS INSTRUCTION (2).**

 1. Reminder of their previous instructions about Christ’s commands (v. 2).

 2. These instructions dealt with their practical, moral character.

**C. THE AIM OF PLEASING GOD.**

 1. Pleasing God is a vital focus of the Christian life.

 2. Christ is our example. John 8:29

 3. Paul was not a people-pleaser, 1Th. 2:4; Gal. 1:10

 4. Make pleasing God your ambition. 2Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10

 5. Living a life pleasing to God is pleasing to God. Heb. 11:5; Prov. 16:7

 6. How do we please God?

 a. Faith - Heb. 11:6

 b. Obedience - 1John 3:22

 c. Doing good and sharing - Heb. 13:16

 d. Abstaining from fleshly living - Rom. 8:8

 e. Humility - 1Kings 3:10

 f. Praise and thanksgiving - Psa. 69:30-31

 g. Fearing God - Ps. 147:10-11

 7. The pleasure of God.

 a. It pleased the Father to save His elect people – Ps. 149:4

 b. It pleased the Father to send His Son - Col. 1:19

 c. It pleased the Father to sacrifice His Son – Isa. 53:10

Conclusion

Discussion questions: What is sanctification and why is it important? What are some of the ways we can please God? Why did it please the Father to crush His Son (Isa. 53:10)? How can we develop a heart that desires to please God?