



# CAPITOL<sup>®</sup> COMMISSION

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## CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

### The Pleasure of God (Part 2) – Luke 12:22-34

Fighting over their inheritance like two bickering children in the backseat of a car, two brothers neglected to listen to the invitation given for a larger inheritance within their reach. Sadly, so did so much of the crowd that was gathered around Christ on that day. Their appetites were too easily satisfied with the things of this world—pleasures, recognition, comfort, security, etc... The rich fool parable in the verses preceding was utterly bankrupt in what mattered.

Then He [Jesus] said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do *the least*, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O you of little faith? "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:22-34 NKJV

**It is the pleasure of God that produces the true pleasure of man. We underestimate the goodness of God when we compare what He blesses us *with* to what His intentions really *are*.** While God daily pours out His grace upon this world, and believers particularly, in forms of temporary pleasure and provision, they are but a shadow of what He delights to give through Jesus Christ both now and in eternity. All of earth's grandeur is only a foretaste of the pleasure of God. And while true pleasure is found in God alone, this is not what Christ is pointing to in this passage.

**The pleasure of God is to give you Christ!** The kingdom of God is not of this world in the sense that it can be bought or sold. It doesn't have visible castles or thrones. However, the kingdom of God is indeed *in* this world as God demonstrates His economy of grace and mercy found only through His Son Jesus Christ. Those who seek the kingdom of God find the King to be both a benevolent monarch and an all-wise King.

**Those who seek the kingdom of God find that God is so trustworthy that they need not anxiously scavenge for themselves in this world the supplies to live rightly in His kingdom.** He is gracious and generous and gives to His people all that is necessary to live a life

that is glorifying to Him. His pleasure is to see the kingdom received and enjoyed. Essentially, seeking after and finding the kingdom of God happens when one places their faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins abandoning all of their good works and rejecting their sin.

**The grace of Christ is freely given to all who will believe.** It was the pleasure of God that Jesus Christ would suffer so that you can have peace with God. “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief.” (*Isaiah 53:10a*) The agony and suffering that Jesus Christ bore leading even to His death on the cross wrought about the pleasure of God to see His justice satisfied. When the wrath of God was appeased by the substitution of Christ for the sin of men the pleasure of God was rewarded in gaining a kingdom and Christ was received back to Heaven proven by the resurrection. The cost of grace was of infinite price spilled out generously for you on the cross of Calvary.

### **What are the ingredients of the pleasure of God?**

1. **That Jesus Christ is presented to a fallen world.** The material cannot perpetually satisfy the cravings of the heart. Christ is the kingdom—a relationship with Him is the treasure to be sought after. Every bit of selfish provision is to be set aside that we would trust in God alone as our ultimate Provider.
2. **That sinful men will receive Jesus Christ.** In Jesus Christ is found all of the kingdom of God—from access to the kingdom, to citizenship in the kingdom, to abundant life in the kingdom and all the way to the eternity of the kingdom of God.

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### **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE APPLICATION:**

1. **What, if any, is the difference between your pleasure and God’s pleasure?**
2. **What do you learn from the character of God when you understand that it was His pleasure to give you His Son?**
3. **To what lengths will God go to see His pleasure fulfilled?**
4. **What is so blinding in this world system to the reality that this isn’t the kingdom that will last?**
5. **What truth about God are we denying when we doubt that in giving up all we have for His use and glory we will find delight?**
6. **What does it mean?: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (v. 24)**



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### **BIBLE STUDY**

**STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44**