

# **THE PLEASURE OF SERVING GOD**

PROV.3:13-24

- **SOME DUTIES UNPLEASANT  
BUT THESE ARE PLEASANT**
- **IT IS TRUE IN LIFE**
- **IT IS TRUE IN DEATH**
- **IT WILL BE TRUE IN ETERNITY**

There is a common error that “Religious people are unhappy; and they cannot enjoy life.”

**NOT so!** Serving God gives peace and pleasure.

If you would like to follow along, we’ll be reading from [Prov.3:13-24](#).

- “**Happy** is the man that **findeth wisdom**,  
and the man that **getteth understanding**.”

<sup>14</sup> For the merchandise of it, is better than the merchandise of silver,  
and the gain thereof, than fine gold.

<sup>15</sup> She (that is, “wisdom” and “understanding”) is more **precious** than rubies:  
and all the things thou canst desire, are **NOT** to be compared unto her.

<sup>16</sup> Length of days is in her right hand;  
and in her left hand, riches and honour.

<sup>17</sup> Her ways, are ways of **pleasantness**,  
and all her paths are **peace**.

So the **WAYS** and **PATHS** of “Wisdom” and “Understanding”  
Are **PLEASANTNESS** and **PEACE**.

<sup>18</sup> She (that is, “wisdom” and “understanding”) is a tree of **life**, to them that **lay hold** upon her:  
and **happy** is every one that **retaineth** her.

Now notice that the same Words mentioned in [Verse 13](#) (“wisdom” and “understanding”),  
are repeated in [Verse 19](#) and the source is attributed to God.

<sup>19</sup> **The Lord** by **wisdom** hath founded the earth;  
by **understanding** hath He established the heavens.

This “Wisdom” and “Understanding” of God  
Is all inclusive of God’s “Knowledge”.

**Notice [Verse 20](#):**

<sup>20</sup> By His **knowledge** the depths are broken up,  
and the clouds drop down the dew.

<sup>21</sup> My son, let **NOT** them (that is, “knowledge”) depart from thine eyes:  
**KEEP** sound **wisdom** and discretion:

<sup>22</sup> so shall they (that is “Knowledge” and “wisdom”) be **life** unto thy soul,  
and **grace** to thy neck.

<sup>23</sup> Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely,  
and thy foot shall not stumble.

<sup>24</sup> When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid:  
yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.”

**The pleasure is real, not imaginary.**

- “Her ways (that is, Wisdom, and Understanding, which comes from Knowledge of God’s Word)  
...are ways of **pleasantness**,  
and all her paths are **peace**.” ([Prov.3:17](#))

## I. SOME DUTIES ARE UN-PLEASANT -- BUT THESE ARE PLEASANT.

### A. It is Delightful to SERVE God, Whom angels delight to worship.

Notice [Heb.1:6](#),

- “when He bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him.”

### B. Serving God, could never be anything but beneficial

- “Thy **TESTIMONIES** have I taken as an **HERITAGE** for ever: for they are the **REJOICING** of my heart.” (reads [Psalm 119:111](#)).

### C. It is so enjoyable to LOVE the loving Father.

- “Jesus said..., Thou shalt **LOVE** the Lord thy God with **ALL** thy heart, and with **ALL** thy soul, and with **ALL** thy mind.” ([Matt.22:37](#)). That’s the First and Great Commandment ([Matt.22:38](#)).
- But we cheerfully and willingly “**LOVE** Him, because he **FIRST** loved us” ([1Jn.4:19](#))

It is gratifying to admire His perfection.

- “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.  
<sup>2</sup> Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.” ([Psa.19:1-2](#))

Then to rise higher to see His work of redemption.

- “all things are **OF** God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the **WORD** of reconciliation.  
<sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors **FOR** Christ, as though God did beseech you **BY** us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (that is, **IN Christ**).” ([2Cor.5:19-21](#))

Then to think that this is MINE! – with MUCH Thankfulness, Gratitude and Love!

- <sup>7:24</sup> O wretched man that I am! **WHO** shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>2</sup>  
<sup>5</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind, I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.  
<sup>8:1</sup> There is therefore now, **NO** condemnation to them which are **IN Christ Jesus**, who walk **NOT** after the flesh, **BUT** after the Spirit.  
<sup>2</sup> For the law **OF** the Spirit of life **IN Christ Jesus** hath made me **FREE** from the law of sin and death.” ([Rom.7:24](#) - [8:vs 2](#))

It is said of a preacher of the past, that he was whistling while walking down some main street USA, And a nearby merchant greeted him and stated, ‘**You sound like you own the world.**’ He replied, “**No, but my FATHER does.**”

## The Pleasure of Serving God

### II. IS TRUE IN LIFE

Not all rewards are reserved for the future

#### A. Now in this life, there is no weight of guilt for the christian.

This is pure pleasure. Jesus said,

- “**COME** unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will **GIVE** you rest.  
<sup>29</sup> **TAKE** my yoke upon you, and **LEARN** of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart:  
and ye shall **FIND** rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” ([Matt.11:28-30](#))

Christ will **GIVE** us **REST**, an **EASY** yoke, and a **LIGHT** burden,  
IF we'll but **COME**, **TAKE**, and **LEARN** of HIM.  
Jesus said, “ye shall **FIND** rest”, that's **AFFIRMATIVE**,  
And that is **WHY** we can have “**PLEASURE** in Serving God.

It IS TRUE IN THIS LIFE, That We Can Have,

#### B. Peace with God.

- “When thou liest down, thou shalt **NOT** be afraid:  
yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be **SWEET**.” ([Prov.3:24](#))
- “Blessed are the dead which die **IN** the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit,  
that they may **REST** from their labours; and their works **DO FOLLOW** them.” ([Rev.14:13](#))
- “Great **PEACE** have they, which **LOVE** Thy law:...” ([Psa.119:165a](#))
- “<sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing (that is, **Don't WORRY**); but **IN** every thing **BY** prayer and supplication  
**WITH** thanksgiving, **LET** your requests be made **KNOWN** unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the **PEACE of God**,  
which passeth all understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **TRUE**, whatsoever things are **HONEST**,  
whatsoever things are **JUST**, whatsoever things are **PURE**,  
whatsoever things are **LOVELY**, whatsoever things are of **GOOD REPORT**;  
**IF** there be any virtue, and **IF** there be any praise, **THINK** on these **THINGS**.

<sup>9</sup> Those **THINGS**, which ye have both **LEARNED**, and **RECEIVED**, and **HEARD**, and **SEEN** in me, **DO**:  
and the **God of PEACE** shall be **WITH** you.” ([Phil.4:6-9](#))

Our Job is to Trust, Pray, Learn, Think on those things that belongeth to God, and DO those things;  
We are **then** promised the **PEACE** of God. What a great blessing and this is **WHY** it is a **PLEASURE** to  
**SERVE** God.

- “**Let** your conversation (that is, our manner of living) be without covetousness;  
and **BE CONTENT** with such things as ye **HAVE**:  
for He hath said, I will **NEVER LEAVE** thee, **NOR FORSAKE** thee. <sup>6</sup> So that we may boldly say,  
**The Lord is MY HELPER**, and I will **NOT FEAR** what man shall do unto me.” ([Heb.13:5-6](#)).

Children of God have the Lord as our **HELPER**, therefore we don't need to **FEAR**.  
What a blessing! What **PLEASURE** we have in **SERVING** the Only True and **LIVING** God.

**C. Serving God, Naturally Tends to a Long, CALM Life, with HONOR.**

- “Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.” ([Prov.3:16](#))
- “Because He hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him:  
I will set him on high, because he hath known My Name.  
<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him:  
I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.  
<sup>16</sup> With long life, will I satisfy him, and shew him My salvation.” ([Psa.91:14-16](#))

**D. Serving God, Brings Fullness To Human Life.**

- “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:  
I am come that they might have **LIFE**, and that they might have it **MORE abundantly**.” ([Jn.10:10](#))
- “She is a tree of **LIFE** to them that **LAY HOLD** upon her:  
and **HAPPY** is every one that **RETAINETH** her.” ([Prov.3:18](#))

**E. The Pleasure of Serving God, is described by the apostle Paul.**

- “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;  
but righteousness, and peace, and **JOY** in the Holy Spirit.” ([Rom.14:17](#))

**F. It is True: Our Pleasure, Peace and Joy, may come through discipline of TROUBLE .**

- “My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of His correction:  
<sup>12</sup> For whom the Lord loveth, He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”  
([Prov.3:11-12](#))
1. Grief and pain are not necessarily signs of God’s anger or His punishment for sin  
-- They may be meant, to be used to help us.
  2. So, Do not treat them thoughtlessly (“just as an accident – or fate”)
  3. We Should Always See the Father in KINDNESS, Who Seeks our welfare ([Prov.3:12](#))  
As God Chastens Us,
    - “...for **OUR profit**, that **WE might** be **PARTAKERS** of His holiness.” ([Heb.12:10b](#))

**G. We Should Be Thankful that Pleasure is OURS, Solid and Actual.**

As the Bible said long ago that,

- “the **WORK** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** shall be **PEACE**;  
and the **EFFECT** of righteousness, **QUIETNESS** and assurance **FOR EVER**.” ([Isa.32:17](#))

**H. Have We Ever Seriously Asked Ourselves: Do we REALLY Believe that we are RICH ?**

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who hath **BLESSED US** with **ALL** spiritual blessings **IN** heavenly places **IN** Christ:” ([Eph.1:3](#))

Listen to our discussions in life, and see where we put the emphasis. Do We Advise children to: “Make Money...A Place...A Name for themselves.” ?
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### Notice these three passages:

- “The **FEAR** of the Lord is the **BEGINNING** of knowledge: but **FOOLS** despise **WISDOM** and **INSTRUCTION**.” ([Prov.1:7](#))
- “**WISDOM** is the principal thing; therefore **GET** wisdom: and with **ALL** thy getting, **GET** understanding.” ([Prov.4:7](#))
- “Behold, the **FEAR** of the Lord, that **IS** wisdom; and to **DEPART** from evil, **IS** understanding.” ([Job 28:28](#))

How many share advise from these thoughts?  
What is the Prob-lem?  
Some are not thinking into the **THOUGHTS** of God.

- “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the **UN**righteous man his thoughts: and let him **RETURN** unto the Lord, and **HE** will have mercy upon him; and (return) to our God, for **HE** will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup> For **MY** thoughts are **NOT** your thoughts, **NEITHER** are your ways **MY** ways, saith the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> For **AS** the heavens are **HIGHER** than the earth, so are **MY** ways **HIGHER** than your ways, and **MY** thoughts than your thoughts.” ([Isa.55:7-9](#))

### The Pleasure of Serving God

#### III. IS TRUE IN DEATH

##### A. So, We Can Look Forward to Each Day of Life, and Even to the Last Day of life

- “For he that will **LOVE** life, and **SEE** good days, let him **REFRAIN** his tongue **FROM** evil, and his **LIPS** that they speak **NO** guile: <sup>11</sup> Let him **ESCHEW** evil, and **DO** good; let him **SEEK** peace, and **ENSUE** it. <sup>12</sup> For the **EYES** of the Lord are **OVER** the righteous, and His **EARS** are **OPEN** unto their prayers: but the **FACE** of the Lord is **AGAINST** them that **DO** evil.” ([1Pet.3:10-12](#))

The inspired apostle Paul said,

- “For the which cause I also **SUFFER** these things: nevertheless I am **NOT** ashamed: for I **KNOW** whom I have **BELIEV-ED**, and am **PERSUADED** that **HE** is **ABLE** to **KEEP** that which I have **COMMITTED** unto Him **AGAINST** that day.” ([2Tim.1:12](#))
- “For I am now **READY** to be offered, and the **TIME** of my departure is **AT HAND**.  
<sup>7</sup> I have **FOUGHT** a good fight, I have **FINISHED** my course, I have **KEPT** the faith:  
<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is **LAI**D UP for me a **CROWN** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall **GIVE** me at that day: and **NOT** to me **ONLY**, but **UNTO ALL** them also that **LOVE** His appearing.” ([2Tim.4:6-8](#))
- “For to me to **Live**, **IS** Christ, and to **Die**, **IS** gain.” ([Phil.1:21](#))
- “...having a **DESIRE** to depart, and to be **WITH** Christ; which is **FAR** better:” ([Phil.1:23](#))

##### B. No Alarm or Fear or Gloominess for US.

- “**MARK** the perfect man (that is, complete man), and **BEHOLD** the upright: for the **END** of that man is **PEACE**.” ([Psa.37:37](#))

## The Pleasure of Serving God

### IV. WILL BE TRUE IN ETERNITY

#### A. Free from Sin / Temptation / Pain / Weariness; To Enjoy the Spiritual Banquet forever.

- “Thou wilt shew me the path of **LIFE**: in Thy presence is fulness of **JOY**;  
**AT** Thy right hand, there are **PLEASURES** for evermore.” ([Psa.16:11](#))
- “And I saw **NO** temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the **TEMPLE** of it.  
<sup>23</sup> And the city had **NO** need of the sun, **NEITHER** of the moon, to shine in it:  
for the **GLORY** of God, did **LIGHTEN** it, and the Lamb is the **LIGHT** thereof.  
<sup>24</sup> And the nations of them which are **SAVED**, shall **WALK** in the **LIGHT** of it:  
and the kings of the earth do **BRING** their glory and honour **INTO** it.  
<sup>25</sup> And the gates of it, shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be **NO** night there.  
<sup>26</sup> And they shall **BRING** the glory and honour of the nations **INTO** it.  
<sup>27</sup> And there shall, in **NO** wise, **ENTER** into it, any thing that **DEFILETH**,  
**NEITHER** whatsoever worketh **ABOMINATION**, or maketh a **LIE**:  
but **THEY** which are written, **IN** the Lamb's **BOOK** of **LIFE**.” ([Rev.21:22-27](#))
- “And He shewed me a **PURE** river, of water of **LIFE**, clear as crystal,  
**PROCEEDING** out of the **THRONE OF God** and **OF** the **Lamb**.  
<sup>2</sup> In the **MIDST** of the street of it, and **ON** either **SIDE** of the river,  
was there the **TREE** of **LIFE**, which **BARE** twelve manner of fruits, and **YIELDED** her fruit every month:  
and the **LEAVES** of the tree, were for the **HEALING** of the nations.  
<sup>3</sup> And there shall be **NO** more **curse**: but the **THRONE OF God** and **OF** the **Lamb** shall be **IN** it;  
and His servants shall **SERVE** Him: <sup>4</sup> And they shall **SEE** His face;  
and His name shall be **IN** their foreheads.  
<sup>5</sup> And there shall be **NO** night there; and they need **NO** candle, **NEITHER** light of the sun;  
for the Lord God **GIVETH** them light: and they shall **REIGN** for **EVER** and **EVER**.” ([Rev.22:1-5](#))

#### B. Those Who NEGLECT their ETERNAL Interests, While They Have Opportunity in This life Will Immediately See their FATAL Mistake.

- “There was a certain **rich man**, which was clothed in purple and fine linen,  
and fared sumptuously every day:” ([Lk.16:19](#))
- “And **IN HELL** he lift up his eyes, Being **IN TORMENTS**,  
and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

<sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus,  
that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am **TORMENTED** in this flame.

<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, **REMEMBER** that thou in thy lifetime  
receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things:  
but now he (Lazarus) is **COMFORTED**, and thou (rich man) art **TORMENTED**.

<sup>26</sup> And beside all this, between us and you there is a **GREAT GULF FIXED**:  
so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot;  
neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

<sup>27</sup> Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

<sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this **Place of Torment**.

<sup>29</sup> Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them **HEAR** them.” ([Lk.16:23-29](#))  
Moses and the prophets were long dead, but they had their writings. And we have the gospel.

## In Conclusion...

Let all be aware that **True PLEASURE** is found **IN God ALONE**.

- “To give **KNOWLEDGE** of salvation unto His people **BY** the remission of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> **THROUGH** the tender **MERCY** of our God; whereby the dayspring from on **HIGH** hath **VISITED** us,  
<sup>79</sup> To give **LIGHT** to them that **SIT** in darkness, and **IN** the shadow of death,  
to **GUIDE** our feet into the **WAY** of **PEACE**.” ([Lk.1:77-79](#))

The only thing worthwhile in life, is to secure this heavenly wisdom for ourselves, at all cost

- “For the merchandise of it, is **BETTER** than the merchandise of silver,  
and the **GAIN** thereof than fine gold. <sup>15</sup> She is **MORE** precious than rubies:  
and **ALL** the things thou canst desire, are **NOT** to be compared unto her.” ([Prov.3:14-15](#))

Let **NOTHING** be compared with it;

**And** if necessary, give up **ANY** material treasure to **OBTAIN** it and to **KEEP** it

- “**BUY** the **Truth**, and **SELL** it **NOT**; also (buy) wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.” ([Prov.23:23](#)).

Give **SELF**, to **HAVE** it, and **HOLD** it **FOREVER**.

Living life for God (that is, the life of a christian), provides the best for us  
in both this life, and the life to come (Read [1Tim.4:8](#); [Lk.18:29-30](#); [Mk.10:29-30](#))

The attitude of the apostle Paul was,

- “I am crucified **WITH** Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth **IN** me:  
and the **LIFE** which I now live in the flesh, I **LIVE** by the **FAITH** of the Son of God,  
who **LOVE** me, and **GAVE** Himself **FOR** me.” ([Gal.2:20](#))

If you have yet to obey the gospel of Christ through,  
**Hearing** ([Rom.10:17](#)), **Believing** ([Heb.11:6](#)), **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#)), **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#))  
and being **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#)),

Then won't you **COME**, as together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw  
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