

THE FATHER'S GOOD PLEASURE FOR YOU

Bible Reading: Luke 12:22-40; Revelation 3:1-13

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). We can be a great Church while we are not yet many. You can enjoy great miracles without being a superman. The Father’s good pleasure is what matters. God has great promises for the little flock. Jesus started with a faithful few; they received great miracles and grew into multitudes. We have God’s promises today; we can rejoice in the comfort of His provision and be the apple of His eyes. How? It is as simple as A-B-C.

ASPIRATION WITHOUT ANXIETY Luke 12:22-32

Aspiration or passion has its place in life or ministry. You need it to excel (Pro 22:29; 1 Cor 12:31; 14:12). God does not want you to be idle, lazy or be a mediocre (Rom 12:11). Yet in your aspiration, He does not want you to panic or become so desperate that you lose sight of Him, life itself or things that matter. **“The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment... And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?”** (vv. 23,25,26). He feeds the birds of the air: He will take care of you (Psa 37:3-5)! Faith in divine care will set you free from worry and anxiety (Heb 13:5,6). You cannot get to heaven by your strength. Neither do enduring wealth, family joy, Church growth, etc. come by sheer struggle. It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you these things, with His Kingdom. Seek that Kingdom first; other things will surely follow (vv. 28-32; Phil 4:4-7).

BELIEVING WITHOUT BACKSLIDING Revelation 3:1-13

The secret of pleasing God is a consistent life of faith, which takes God at His word. We see two contrasting Churches in our text. Sardis was popular but spiritually dead. Despite her high status, she was disapproved (vv. 2,3). Philadelphia was unpopular and despised but had God’s favour. The Lord commended her and set before her an open door (vv. 7-10). Why? They kept God’s word. Those who love the Lord keep His word; that is what matters (John 14:23,24). You must match your profession with obedience. **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”** (Jam 1:22). Knowing or preaching the truth is not enough; you must do it. One could be orthodox in service while the first love is gone (Rev 2:2-4). Behave your belief (Rom 2:21-24). Do you evangelise others? Keep away from sin yourself. Do you teach in the Church? Be a doer yourself. Do you believe in purity of life? Demonstrate it in what you do at work and how you act in Church. Be watchful so your attitude to, and in marriage does not cause lust or temptation in you or others (1 Cor 7:1-5,8,9). Some make excuses; others exalt what they read on the internet above God’s word. Faith for healing, purity, power, etc. is suffering because of ‘wisdom’ from social media. O, we must be careful! Our confession is only genuine if we do God’s pleasure thereafter (Ezra 10:11; Phil 2:12,13).

CONSECRATION WITHOUT CONTRADICTION Luke 12:33-40

God’s pleasure is for you to serve Him as angels do in heaven (Psa 103:21; Mat 6:9,10). Consecration is yielding your life to God without attaching strings. For that to be, there must be no contradiction in your lifestyle. The Nazarite must not drink wine; the prophet must prophesy (Amos 2:11,12). You cannot be consecrated to Christ and be carnal in conduct. **One**, detach your heart from earthly riches and invest in eternal things. **“Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”** (vv. 33,34). **Two**, prepare for heaven by being earnest in service till the Lord returns. **“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately”** (vv. 35,36). Be consistent. Serve God today and repeat it tomorrow. And **three**, watch diligently so you are awake when the Master comes. **“And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not”** (vv. 39,40). It is His good pleasure to give you the Kingdom; therefore, give your all to it.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” – John 13:17