

We spend much of our lives chasing success, approval, and achievement, believing those things will finally satisfy us. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon discovered that real success begins when life is centered on pleasing God rather than pleasing ourselves or others. This week, we start with the foundation rule for catching what lasts: learning to live each day with one simple aim — **Please God.**

QUESTIONS

Read SCRIPTURE: ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14

1. HAVE YOU EVER PURSUED SOMETHING YOU WERE CONVINCED WOULD SATISFY YOU... ONLY TO REALIZE IT DIDN'T DELIVER WHAT YOU EXPECTED? WHAT WAS IT? WHAT DID THAT EXPERIENCE TEACH YOU?
2. ACCORDING TO ECCLESIASTES 12:13–14, WHAT IS “THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN”? WHAT DOES FEARING GOD LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE — NOT EMOTIONALLY, BUT BEHAVIORALLY? IS FEAR REVERENCE? IS IT OBEDIENCE? IS IT ALIGNMENT?
3. ECCLESIASTES 2:26 SAYS GOD GIVES WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND JOY TO THE ONE WHO PLEASES HIM. WHEN YOU HEAR “PLEASE GOD,” WHAT EMOTIONS COME TO MIND — MOTIVATION, PRESSURE, CONFUSION, PEACE? WHY?
4. WHO ARE YOU MOST TEMPTED TO PLEASE RIGHT NOW...YOURSELF, OTHER PEOPLE, OR GOD? HOW CAN YOU TELL? WHAT EVIDENCE APPEARS IN YOUR SCHEDULE OR STRESS?
5. READ MATTHEW 7:24–27. JESUS SAYS THE WISE PERSON HEARS AND PRACTICES. WHERE ARE YOU CURRENTLY AGREEING WITH JESUS... BUT MAYBE NOT PRACTICING WHAT HE SAYS?
6. READ COLOSSIANS 3:23–24 TO BRING SOLOMON'S CONCLUSION INTO EVERYDAY ACTION. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, WHAT WOULD CHANGE THIS WEEK IF YOUR FIRST QUESTION WAS: *DOES THIS PLEASE GOD?* WHAT WOULD CHANGE TOMORROW IN YOUR WORK, PARENTING, MARRIAGE, OR LEADERSHIP? WHAT WOULD STOP? WHAT WOULD START?

NEXT STEPS / CHALLENGE:

BEFORE A DECISION THIS WEEK, PAUSE AND ASK: *WHO AM I TRYING TO PLEASE RIGHT NOW — PEOPLE OR GOD?* PLEASE GOD. LEAVE THE RESULTS TO HIM

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TIME

Read the following scriptures this week:

Day 1 – Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 and Matthew 6:33, Seek first the kingdom of God

Day 2 – Romans 12:1-2, Living as a pleasing sacrifice

Day 3 – Matthew 7:24-27, Be wise

Day 4 – Galatians 1:10, Pleasing God vs pleasing people

Day 5 – Hebrews 11:6; 12:28-29, Without faith it's impossible to please God

Day 6 – Psalm 37:4-5 and Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, Delight yourself in the Lord

Day 7 – Colossians 3:23-24 and 2 Corinthians 5:9, Make it your daily goal to please God