

IN TOUCH

YOU WERE PLANNED FOR GOD'S PLEASURE

Dear Friend:

Maybe you have never thought about this before but you were planned for God's pleasure. That may sound unusual but let me explain it as Rick Warren does in his revised book: *The Purpose Driven Life*. God did not need to create you – he does not need anyone or anything he is the self – sustaining self – sufficient God. He did, however, create you for his own enjoyment. You exist for his delight and to bring glory to him.

Since you were created by him and exist for him the question that should be asked is: "What makes God smile?" That question is answered by Paul in Ephesians 5:10, "Find out what pleases the Lord." I do not have space to go into great detail but the following five things please the Lord. First: live a life of worship. In order to do this we have to move beyond the thinking of the nearly past 1,500 years of the church: worship is a place I go to on Sunday morning. Worship is not a noun, worship is a verb. Look – up Romans 12:1-2, worship is being a living sacrifice for God. Worship is total surrender to God. My life should be so God surrendered that when people watch and hear me, they should see and hear a reflection of God! Worshipping God makes God smile. Trusting God completely makes God smile. Noah is an excellent example of trusting God completely. Think about it...Noah was told by God that it was going to rain – which it never had before. He was told to build an Ark which had never been done before, and he was told to get two of every animal on the Ark – which had never been attempted before! Noah trusted God completely. God smiles when we obey him wholeheartedly. Noah's trust turned to obedience when he started hammering and nailing. God smiles when we praise and thank him continually. Noah's first act after getting off the Ark was to offer – up a sacrifice of thanks to God. Do you thank God continuously? Finally, God smiles when we use our abilities! After the flood God told Noah to get on with his life and do the things He designed humans to do! Every human activity, except sin, can be done for God's pleasure if we do it with an attitude of praise. Doing the dishes, washing the car, doing your job, you can do for God's pleasure – you can please him by the way you act and the attitude you have no matter what the activity.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Events: We expect to have a few extra Purpose Driven Life books Sunday – buy one!

Prayers: The family of Diane Burns the Milton & Erica Pacheco missionaries to Thailand