



I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?" Ecclesiastes 2:1-2 (NLT)

Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless - like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NLT)

1. God _____ me to _____ pleasure.

God, your love is so precious! You protect people in the shadow of your wings. They eat the rich food in your house, and you let them drink from your river of pleasure. Psalms 36:7-8 (NCV)

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. Psalms 16:11 (NLT)

2. I was _____ for _____ pleasure.

"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist for your pleasure." Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38

3. I will _____ in the Lord _____.

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. Philippians 4:12 (NLT)

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NLT)

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📍 New Life Christian Center

October 29, 2023

Pastor Jeremy Moore | Turlock

Pastor Tito Valdespino | Patterson

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1. God DESIGNED me to EXPERIENCE pleasure.

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2. I was CREATED for GOD'S pleasure.

"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist for your pleasure." Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38

3. I will REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 3 | October 29, 2023

***"IF ONLY... My Life Would Be Filled
With Pleasure."***

[CONNECT]

Have you ever passionately pursued something, or someone, that looked great on the outside...but you quickly realized that the pleasure that thing, or person, brought you was temporary? Or, maybe you discovered that thing, or person, were rotten on the inside all along?

[ENGAGE]

What stood out to you from this weekend's message?

[GROW]

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-2; 10-11. What was Solomon so desperately trying to find, and why wasn't he successful?

God designed you to experience pleasure. In fact, the word "Eden" in Hebrew means "pleasure". The Garden of Pleasure. However, the one thing in the Garden that God instructed Adam and Eve to stay away from because it would bring spiritual death to them, was the thing they craved more than their relationship with God. In your own personal life, what pleasure might you be seeking more than your relationship with Jesus?

You were created for God's pleasure. How does knowing and understanding this impact the way you view your relationship with God?

Read Philippians 4:4; 12. What does it mean to be "content in everything", and then also to "rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS...?"

Have you ever woke up in a bad mood for no apparent reason? Or gone throughout your day feeling frustrated and anxious and you don't know why? What would happen if you paused your day, just for 2 minutes and began to "rejoice in the Lord"?

[LEAD (YOURSELF)]

This week:

Here are some things you can do this week to begin learning how to "rejoice in the Lord always" and truly find pleasure in connecting with and pursuing Jesus...

- Surround yourself with "worship": music, listening to scripture/podcast
- Create a "thank you Jesus" list. Write out some of the things you're grateful for that God has done in your life
- Daily choose Joy. Not just a fleeting emotion... But go to Jesus to find your fulfillment, life, and joy!



IF ONLY...