

## PLEASING GOD IN OUR MOTIVES

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

CURT DE GRAAFF

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

### CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- *What were some of the things that you wanted when you were a child? Or, if you have children right now, what are some things they want?*
- *How have the things you want changed as you've grown up? How have they stayed the same?*

### APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time you met. Anything you need to follow up on as a group?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. In his message, Pastor Curt reminds us **how to please God in our motives**.

#### Pleasing God In Our Motives:

1. In 1 Thessalonians 2:4, the Apostle Paul acknowledged his desire to “please God who tests our hearts.”
  - *How has God “tested” or how is He testing your heart right now? Give specifics. How did you respond? In the middle of a trial right now? How are you responding?*
2. Pastor Curt mentioned that **2 Corinthians 5:9** is a key verse in evaluating our own heart motivations. “So whether we are home or away, we make it our aim to please Him.” Here are four questions to ask in order to discover the things that motivate you: 1) What is your “aim” in life? 2) What gets you up in the morning? 3) What is it that you really want from life? 4) If you don’t have \_\_\_\_\_, you are miserable.
  - *Which of these four questions resonates deepest with you? What’s your answer to the question?*
3. There are a variety of possible selfish motives for our actions that Pastor Curt listed: pleasure, independence, significance/reputation, respect/admiration, control, power, happiness, success, meaning, and comfort.
  - *Highlight one or two of these motivations that show up in your life. Can you give examples of how those motivations direct your decisions and actions?*
  - *According to the message text, how do we combat this tendency toward selfish motivations and goals? Look at verses 2, 4, and 8 for ideas.*
  - *What will you do this week to adjust your motives to align better with what you’ve learned from this passage and others*

**On the pinnacle of the Washington Monument is the latin phrase, “Laus Deo” - Praise be to God. What would be the phrase written over your life?**

### PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- **Pray Psalm 139:23-24 together as a group:** *Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I’m about; See for yourself whether I’ve done anything wrong—then guide me on the road to eternal life. (MSG)*

