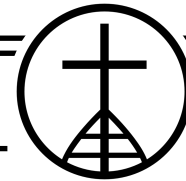


# PULPIT CURRICULUM

## The Marks of a Good Christian: Pleasing God

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

March 3, 2024 – Adam Ashoff



**Prayer & Praise:** Pray for the Ruccios getting acclimated again in Southeast Asia.  
Pray for the upcoming Women's Ministry Retreat.: leaders, teachers, and attendees.

### We Exist in Jesus Christ to Please God (v.1)

Have you thought about Paul's "gospel order" (identity precedes activity) and gospel grammar (indicatives before imperatives) before? Why is it important to constantly go back to these fundamental distinctions in our faith?

How does rooting our obedience in a desire to please God help us better live the Christian life day to day?

### We Exist Through Jesus Christ to Please God (v.2)

Excelling (or abounding) still more in pleasing God is seen in our obedience. Read the following Scriptures and trace the theme of "excel" or "abound" or "overflow" as it relates to our lives: Rom 15:13, 1 Cor 14:12, 1 Cor 15:58, Col 2:7, 2 Cor 4:15, 2 Cor 8:7, Phil 1:9, 2 Cor 1:5, 2 Cor 9:6, Eph 1:7-8, Eph 3:20. How do these truths help fill out our understanding of the "excelling" or "abundant" Christian life?

When it comes to obeying God, how does wanting to please Him in all things (2 Cor 5:8-9) help fill out a desire to obey Him out of reverence and fear?

**Mutual Ministry:** As we begin to talk about our obedience to God's commands in the weeks ahead, how is your heart attitude towards obeying as of late? Have His commands seemed "burdensome" in any way? (1 Jn 5:3)

*Within a few months, he had taught the young Thessalonian converts not only the essence of the **good news**, but the essence of the **good life**; not only about faith in Jesus, but also about the need for **good works** by which saving faith is shown to be genuine and without which is dead." **John Stott***