

DELIGHTFUL PLEASURES

Did you ever have “delightful pleasures?” These are 2 distinctively different words in English, but are related in their roots. No scripture uses them together, but when we DO use them together it gives added emphasis to a situation. They are synonymous in meaning, but their use in scripture brings certain points to surface. The word “Eden” means “delight”, and the first time the word is used is in Gen. 3:6 in the ASV, where Eve saw that the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was “pleasant” (KJV) to see. In this lesson we shall note the separate uses of the word.

First, consider the word “delight”. We begin by looking at it from God's viewpoint, as to that in which He *does* and does *not* “delight.” God does not delight in **disobedience** to His will. When king Saul was to utterly destroy the Amalekites, but brought back part of his booty and began to make excuses for his sin by claiming the people wanted to sacrifice them unto God, Samuel firmly rebuked him for his sin by asking, “Has the Lord as great **delight** in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15:23). God is delighted each time a sinner repents and turns to Him in obedience.

Neither does God delight in **dishonest gain**. Solomon wrote, “Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His **delight**” (Prov. 11:1). James 5:1-5 discusses such in detail. Neither does God delight in **wickedness**. Isaiah wrote, “But you are those who forsake the Lord, Who forget my holy mountain, Who prepare a table for Gad, And who furnish a drink offering for Meni. Therefore I will number you for the sword, And you shall all bow down to the slaughter. Because when I called, you did not answer; When I spoke you did not hear, but did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not **delight**” (Isa. 65:11, 12).

Now note some things in which God **does** “delight.” He delights in prayers that are offered from the heart of the obedient. “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. But the prayer of the upright is His **delight**” (Prov. 15:8). cf Psa. 66:18; 1 Pet. 3:12. The Lord also “delights” when wickedness is rebuked. “But those who rebuke the wicked will have **delight**, And a good blessing will come upon them”(Prov. 24:25). cf Prov. 28:23; Luke 17:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:1-3

Now, let's look at the word “delight” from man's viewpoint. The man is blessed who “delights” in the Lord. “**Delight** thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psa. 37:4). Man is also to delight in the “law” of the Lord. David wrote concerning the man who walks uprightly, “But his **delight** is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psa. 1:2). cf 119:16, 47

Secondly, let's look at the word “pleasure.” We begin by again looking at it from God's viewpoint—the negative and the positive. God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked. “Do I have any **pleasure** at all that the wicked should die? Says the Lord God, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live?'" (Ezek. 18:23). See also verse 32. Neither does the Lord have pleasure with the “apostate”—one who leaves Him completely. “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no **pleasure** in him” (Heb.10:38). Cf verse 39

On the positive side, the Lord DOES have pleasure in the obedient. “The Lord

taketh **pleasure** in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy" (Psa. 147:11). He also takes pleasure in making the kingdom available to man. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good **pleasure** to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Finally, let's look at pleasure from MAN'S viewpoint. Man should always take pleasure in not loving pleasure, or being addicted to it. "He who loves **pleasure** shall be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil shall not be rich" (Prov. 21:17). See also 2 Tim. 3:4. Then, man should take pleasure in not living in rebellion to God, but doing His will in righteous living. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the **pleasures** of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25). cf 2 Pet. 2:13. In contrast, we are to love righteousness.

Heaven will be a place of delight and eternal pleasure. It will be for those whom God delights, and those who delight in Him and do His will.

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