

Series: John

Title: He Always Pleased Him

Text: John 8: 28-29

Date: Aug 15, 2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

John 8: 28: Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I AM, and that I do nothing of myself: but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. 29: And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

He speaks of being lifted up on the cross. The things the Spirit makes us know in spirit and in truth are through Christ being lifted up on the cross—through the death he accomplished at Calvary. It includes the things that took place afterward and by the work Christ is still doing due to his being raised to reign.

Then shall ye know—*"that I AM."*

Through the cross we know Christ is the great I AM. Then shall ye know, *"I do nothing of myself."* What Christ did the Father did in him and Christ in the Father—they are one. As the servant of the Father, Christ gave God all the glory for all that he did.

Then shall ye know *"as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."* Through the cross, we know that Christ spoke only what the Father taught him. Their doctrine was one because they are one. Also, as the servant, Christ glorified the Father for teaching him everything he spoke. This we know through the cross.

When you have lifted me up then shall ye know *"he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone."* Through the cross we know the perfect oneness, perfect unity, fidelity Christ and the Father had one to the other. God did not leave him alone. He raised him from the grave.

Through Christ being lifted up we know that Christ is our Righteousness, *"for I do always those things that please him."*

As the officers said, "Never man spake like this man." Amongst all the millions of men that have lived on this earth no man could use language like this when speaking of himself. No man, of himself, can proclaim such a relationship with God. No man could speak of his future with such perfect accuracy and composure. Among all the sons of Adam, no man can say, *"I do always those things that please the Father."*

By the cross of Christ we know Christ is the Truth.

By Christ's obedience unto the death of the cross and by the miraculous things that followed and even the things that Christ is yet working in our day, we know Christ is God in human flesh—*that I AM*. We know everything he spoke, everything he did, everything he is still doing is fulfilling the Father's will. We know God the Father is well-pleased with Christ's obedience alone.

What a statement—"I do always those things that please him." Christ is the only one by whose obedience his people are made righteous.

Romans 5:19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the **obedience** of one shall many be made righteous.

Eternally—Christ did always those things that please the Father. Before Christ took flesh God was well-pleased with him always.

Matthew 12:18: Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul IS well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him,...

Notice, before the Father put the Spirit upon Christ incarnate, God said he is "my beloved, in whom my soul IS well-pleased." God was well-pleased with Christ from eternity. And God was well-pleased with his elect in Christ. He was ever before God as his delight (Pro 8: 30).

From creation and throughout the days of the old covenant—God the Father was well-pleased with Christ when he made the world. He was well-pleased with our Lord’s government of the world, even before he became incarnate.

But especially as the GodMan representing his people, Christ did always those things which pleased the Father. “Always” is a mighty all-encompassing word. From the womb until our Substitute yielded up his spirit—at all times—in all ways—even throughout the ignominious death of the cross—the Lord Jesus did *“always those things that please him.”*

Subject: He Always Pleas'd Him

Proposition: Christ is the Righteousness of his people because from the womb until he yielded up his spirit, Christ did always those things that pleased the Father.

A sinner needs holiness and righteousness throughout the totality of our lives. Christ is that Righteousness. Sinner, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and God shall impute to you the righteousness of his Son.

HOLY CONCEPTION

A sinner needs a holy conception. But every son of Adam was conceived in sin. This should end our boast of any holiness or righteousness in us apart from Christ alone. Every child born of Adam must say of our first birth, “In sin did my mother conceive me.” We come forth from our mother’s womb speaking lies (Ps 51: 5; 58: 3).

Yet, the Son of God took a sinless body in the womb of the virgin so that he is holy from the womb. In the womb Christ was that “holy thing!” (Lu 1: 35). Christ put away the sin of the conception of all his elect. His holiness in conception is the holy nature in whom his people are made perfectly holy! Truly, Christ became us!

RIGHTEOUS YOUTH

Sinners need a holy and righteous youth. I was once a sinful little child. Do you ever pray as David did? “Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness’ sake, O LORD” (Ps 25: 7). When a believer prays “remember not the sins of my youth”, we are asking God to remember the righteousness of Christ’s youth. His righteousness as a child is the righteousness of his people’s youth. And by his death, he put away all the sins of our youth. That is the only way God remembers not the sins of our youth. It is Christ’s goodness that God remembers as the goodness of the believer.

RIGHTEOUS MANHOOD

Throughout Christ’s manhood he always did that which pleased the Father. And so did all his people in him. Sin is in everything we have ever done. *We can say I do always sin.* But Christ’s every thought was righteous. He never had sin in motive, only a holy obedience of heart. He never sinned in a look at anyone, only perfect righteousness. The Lord Jesus was only righteousness in every word and every deed. And for God’s elect, Christ bore the sin of our manhood and put it away, justifying his people from all our sins.

RIGHTEOUS RELIGIOUS WORKS

Christ is the righteousness of his people’s religious works. Our water-baptism was full of sin. In the water baptism of our Savior, he only did that which pleased the Father. He was perfect in righteous obedience and his people in him even when he performed the ordinance of baptism. He told John the Baptist “Thus it becometh US to fulfill all righteousness” (Mt 3:15). His baptism was like the whole of his perfect obedience to the Father on behalf of his people. At our Lord’s baptism the Father sent the Holy Spirit in visible form and the Father spoke from heaven bearing witness *“This is my beloved Son in whom He was well pleased!”* (Lu 3:22).

When tempted of the devil he was perfect in obedience. The devil tempted Christ 40 days and nights. Yet the Lord always did that which pleased God his Father, even when tempted by the devil. The Father bore witness by sending the ministration of angels to him. Satan labored hard to find a weak spot in the Lord throughout his life. Christ is the only one who could say, "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me" (John 14:30). Do we fail when tempted? The Lord taught us to pray, "Lord lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil" (Mt 6:13). The child of God, even in every temptation, has the blessed assurance that in Christ we have always done that which pleased the Father.

Under the law, throughout the Lord's entire life he pleased the Father. He magnified and made the law honorable (Is 42:21). Concerning the ceremonial law, at 8 days old the Lord Jesus was circumcised and observed every ceremony all his days. He was at the feast of tabernacles fulfilling the law. He fulfilled every ceremony and made the ceremonial law pass away by fulfilling all the types and shadows in himself through being lifted up on the cross then entering the holiest of holies as our great High Priest. Likewise, Christ fulfilled the moral law. He is the righteousness of it in himself. Christ alone could say, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (Jn 8: 46). In Christ, by his obedience and death, the law says that as he always did that which pleased the Father so has his people who were in him.

Likewise, Christ is our righteousness in giving God all the glory for all we do and speak. We sin even when trying to give God the glory! But Christ said, "*I do nothing of myself!*" He and the Father were one in everything he did; but he glorified the Father for everything he did and he glorified the Father, with no sin, in perfect glorification. When we do anything as we ought, we have to give God all the glory for working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight (Heb 13:21). Yet only Christ glorified the Father perfectly for all that he did. And our Substitute put away our sins of not glorifying God perfectly.

Everything he spoke was of the Father. He spoke in perfect obedience and gave God all the glory, saying, "*as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*" How many times have we not spoken as we ought? Christ purged those sins away by his blood. And when we speak as we should, we have to give God all the glory, saying, "*as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*" But even Christ is our righteousness in giving God the glory for speaking as we ought.

In every religious work Christ alone is our righteousness. He alone can say, "*I do always that which pleases him.*"

RIGHTEOUS DEATH

We need a righteous death. Even in the act of dying you and I will sin. God gives dying grace to his people. But in ourselves we will be full of unbelief. Yet, Christ gave perfect submission in his death, "*I know the Father has not left me alone, he is with me.*" In perfect obedience the Lord Jesus gave himself to be lifted up on the cross. The only way he could be fit to be lifted up was due to him being always righteous, the spotless Lamb. His was perfectly willing to bear our sin. He suffered perfectly throughout that shameful death. Even when God forsook him in justice, he knew the Father was with him; the Father was well-pleased—his justice satisfied—by Christ's offering. Even until he yielded up his spirit, Christ did always that which pleased the Father. It pleased the Father to bruise him. Our Substitute made perfect satisfaction for the sins of his people and made us righteous by his death. He pleased the Father by his obedience death.

These things we know by beholding Christ's obedience unto the death of the cross—"*when ye have lifted me up then shall ye know.*" And we know these things by things that happened since Christ's death.

MIRACLES AFTER HIS DEATH

The miraculous things after his death declare Christ is the great I AM. These things declare Christ always did those things pleasing to the Father.

Matthew 27: 50: Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51: And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52: And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53: And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54: Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the

earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

His resurrection, his appearance to many witnesses then his ascension declares he is the I Am who always pleased his Father

Romans 1:4: And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

At Pentecost, the Lord Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit. He called 3000. Since then Christ has been calling his people by the Spirit through the preaching of the gospel. He said, “then shall ye know.” We know the things Christ spoke are true and the things he did are pleasing by the apostles who preached Christ in the gospel and by God bearing witness by the miracles.

Hebrews 2: 3: How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4: God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

We know he is the I Am because he called us to faith in him. We know because Christ is still sending his gospel forth because he yet has some to bring to him who he redeemed by his blood. God is, right now, well-pleased with what Christ is doing in this earth as our Prophet, Priest and King from his throne in glory.

Sinners are without excuse for not believing on him. He said, “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him” (Jn 10: 37-38). What does that mean? The invisible things of God are clearly seen by his works of creation (Rom_1:20). Likewise, the invisible things of the Redeemer are clearly seen by what our accomplished on the cross, by our Lord’s miracles and by all his works. So those who refuse to believe on Christ are without excuse.

It is only by Christ pleasing the Father that we are robed in Christ’s righteousness. His obedience is our righteousness. His people are righteous and well-pleasing before holy God.

Believer, hear Christ say, “*he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone.*” Know the same is true of you. Our Lord Jesus promised that he shall never leave you nor forsake you. He is always with those he made righteous by his blood in whom he dwells in Spirit.

Likewise, the Spirit of our Lord makes his people desire to do always that which pleases him. But anything we do by his Spirit as we ought and anything we speak as we ought, we must give him the glory! But we trust only in Christ our Righteousness alone! He alone could say, “*I do always that which pleases the Father.*” He is our Righteousness! Therefore, God our Father says of those he has given faith in Christ, that in Christ you have always done that which pleases the Father. What a blessing! What assurance! May God give us grace to believe on Christ and rest in him all our days.

Amen!