**A Worthy Life!**

**Hebrews 11**

**Colossians 1:10** *And we pray this in order that you may* ***live a life worthy of the Lord*** *and may* ***please him*** *in every way…*

**Five** **distinguishing marks** of a worthy life, that is, a life that is pleasing to God.

**Mark # 1:** A worthy life is marked by a **confident faith**. Verses 1-6

* This is the distinguishing mark of these saints in the Old Testament. They all possessed a **confident faith**—one that was both **sure** and **certain**. Of what were they certain?
1. That God exists!
2. That God can make something out of nothing!
3. That God created the universe!
4. That it is impossible to please God without faith!
5. That God rewards those who seek Him.
* **Universal revelation**—the evidence of God in creation that is available to every person who has ever lived.

**Psalm 19:1-4** *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world*.

* **Special revelation**-- According to Dr. John Hammett,
1. Special revelation is “*the revelation of God or of information God desired to communicate, given to particular individuals at particular times*.”
2. “The purpose of special revelation is **relational**—God giving information about himself in order that a **relationship of personal knowledge, intimacy and trust may be established**.”[[1]](#endnote-1)
* As a man begins to open up God’s Word and read it…
1. His **faith develops**.
2. He begins **to understand**, and hopefully, **believe** that in the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.
3. He comes to realize that the only way to please God is to **trust him completely.**
4. As his faith grows, he becomes more and more aware that **without faith it is impossible to please God**.

**Mark # 2:** A worthy life is marked by a **holy fear** of God. Verse 7

* What is meant by a “holy fear” of God? The New American Standard Version translates this word for “holy fear” as “reverence.” It literally means “to have a devoted concern for the things of God.”

**Proverbs 1:7** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom…”

* This fear of the Lord refers to “a loving reverence for God that includessubmission to his lordship and to the commands of His Word**.”**

**Mark # 3:** A worthy life is marked by an **obedient heart.** Verses 8-12 and 17-19

* What does it mean to have an obedient heart? It means “to listen and to submit” to God. The word *trust* is closely associated with the word *obedience*. When we trust God that sets us free to obey Him; because we know that our lives are in His hands.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*

**Mark # 4:** A worthy life is marked by **an eye towards heaven.** Verses 10, 13-16

* What do it mean by an “eye towards heaven?” It means to have a **heavenly mindset**.

**Mark # 5:** A worthy life is marked **by death**. Verses 24-40

* What does it mean that a worthy life, one that is pleasing to God is marked by death?

**John 12:23-26** says,

*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.* ***But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*** *The man who lives his life will lose it. While the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me*.

* To follow God, we must **die to self**.

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose****.—Jim Elliott, 1948***

1. Dr. John Hammett *T3000 Systematic Theology I Class Lecture Notes (*Wake Forest, NC: @John Samuel Hammett, June 2000), 20-23. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)