

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

IT IS GOD'S WORK

John 6:28-29 Then they said to Him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

The people who had come to Jesus wanted to know what they had to do to please God. This is a fairly common human question. Of the over 90% of people in the United States who say they believe in God; the vast majority indicate through polls that they are concerned because they want to please God but believe they are unable to do so. They want to do better, but are unsure how they can change their lives to make God more pleased with them.

During a Sunday morning worship service in St. Joseph, Missouri a Christian pastor asked his congregation how many of them really wanted to please God more than anything else. Every hand went up. Then he asked them, "How many of you think God is really pleased with you?" Out of the 400 people in attendance, one 11-year-old boy and one 10-year-old girl raised their hands. That was all.

"What shall we do in order to work the works of God?" (John 6:28) What are the works you do that please Him? Jesus turns the question into a statement, "This is the work of God, that you believe on whom He did send." (John 6:29) In Jesus' statement He says that which pleases God is to believe in the One He sent, namely His Son Jesus Christ.

Indeed, you must believe, have faith, trust in Jesus Christ in order to be pleasing to your heavenly Father. This faith, however, is not your work. It is God's work! Jesus said a bit later in His conversation with these people here in John 6, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." (verse 44) It is through your baptism that God has done this work in you, ". . . (you have) been buried with Him (Christ) in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him (Christ) through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

God is pleased with you because the faith He has given you clings to His Son whereby your sins are removed. As you read in a recent devotion, it is simply by clinging to Jesus' cross you are in a right standing and pleasing to your heavenly Father. You can join those two children in raising your hand boldly and confidently, assured God loves you.

Prayer: Thank you heavenly Father for Your gift of faith that I believe in Your Son, my sins are forgiven and I am at peace and am pleasing to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation, God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

Refrain: Therefore I'll say again; God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness; God love was working
To make me free. Refrain:

He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer, He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. Refrain:

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. Refrain:

Now, I will praise You, O Love Eternal; Now I will praise you
All my life long. Refrain:
(LSB 392)