

Good morning! I enjoy sending Pam flowers at work. I know she likes flowers and I know she likes that I'm thinking of her and that I love her. I think she likes for others to know that I love her, too. Sending flowers is primarily something I do for Pam, not for me; the pleasure I get is in making *her* happy. When you love someone you want to make them happy, right? Let's keep that in mind this morning as we consider this passage taken from one of Paul's letters to some Christians in a place called Corinth:

Whether at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him.

2 Cor. 5:9

When I was a new Christian, I would occasionally write love poems to Jesus. I don't know that they were very good, but I think He appreciated it. Paul says here that he and Timothy *make it their aim* to please Christ. For them, pleasing God was a primary motivation. Is this a motive in your life? Do you do anything just because God likes it? This is something we don't hear much preaching on these days. We hear a lot about what God doesn't like, but not so much about what pleases Him. OK, so how do we do that in a practical way? We obey His commands. We guard against our known bad habits and self-indulgence. We treat others with kindness and respect and we deny ourselves where that would be a conflict. We seek to know God better in prayer and in reading His Word. We look for ways to act redemptively in our interactions with other people. Whew---that's a lot of work---but there's joy in it! As the great hymn writer Isaac Watts wrote, "*Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*" This morning, let me encourage you to consider what you might do today just to please God. Maybe it will take some effort on your part...but Jesus will like it!