

## Pleasing Jehovah

*I will praise the name of God with a song; and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock...*

*Psalms 69:30,31*

In the beginning, when God created the world, He placed man in a pristine paradise where he could enjoy all the provisions of God. God supplied all that Adam would ever need: food, purpose, companionship, and most importantly, the Presence of Jehovah Himself. Adam's prideful disobedience and the resultant curse brought many negative changes to God's perfect creation. Pain, sorrow, labor, strife, and death would become the norm, and idol worship and religious superstition would replace true fellowship with God. God's plan for redemption by sending His only begotten Son to pay for the sins of the world would provide a way for man to have his fellowship with God restored. Though the Savior did come and ultimately accomplished His mission, man's relationship with God is at times still affected by the curse. Superstitions play a large part in the world's religions; even the *grace and truth that came by Jesus* have not removed the influences of false beliefs of the religious unsaved all around us.

In the Old Testament, worship was based on a system of sacrifice for sin. These sacrifices were only types of the True Sacrifice that would one day come. As John the Baptist stated when he saw Jesus: *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*. Still, men would add to faith their own superstitions because they thought that the religious duties they performed could merit God's pleasure regardless of how they lived their lives. Over the years, the various customs and traditions they developed influenced their way of serving God. Pride played a large role and caused many to think that their actions influenced God's pleasure with them. This spiritual blindness caused the Pharisees to place more importance on keeping the Sabbath than helping a needy person. In Luke 13:14, the ruler of the synagogue stated, "there are six days in which men ought to work: in them come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Those words epitomized their confusion about pleasing God. Earning the praise of men,

which satisfied the pride of the flesh, replaced their longing to please the invisible God.

As believers, we want to be aware of any personal superstition that can creep into our relationship with the Lord. Certainly, God is pleased with our obedience from a grateful heart, and praising His name with songs of praise and thanksgiving surpasses any ritual sacrifice we perform. Throughout this day we can incorporate with a sincere heart those things that please Him.

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