

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are captured in motion, walking across the stripes. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the pavement, indicating bright, direct sunlight. The people are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and trousers. Some are carrying bags or umbrellas. The overall scene is a busy, everyday urban moment.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

“Walking to Please God”

I THESSALONIANS 4:1-2

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own.

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

1. On sexual purity (4:3-8)
2. On loving the brethren (4:9-12)
3. On the Resurrection (4:13-18)
4. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
5. On Recognizing Leaders (5:12-13)
6. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
7. On Non-retaliation (5:15)
8. On Rejoicing (5:16)
9. On Regular Prayer (5:17)
10. On Gratitude (5:18)
11. On Testing the Spirits (5:19-21)
12. On Sanctification (5:22-28)

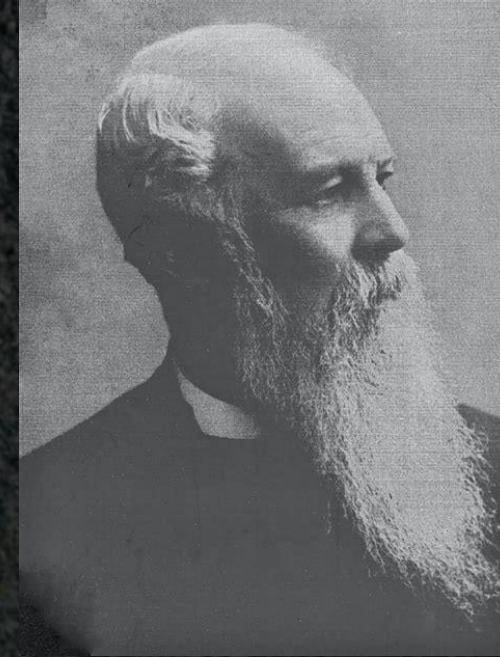
Walking to Please God (I Thess 4-5)

KEY POINT:

In the Christian life, keep the main thing the main thing.

“A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, strong, uncompromising, meticulous, wholehearted, fervent in spirit.

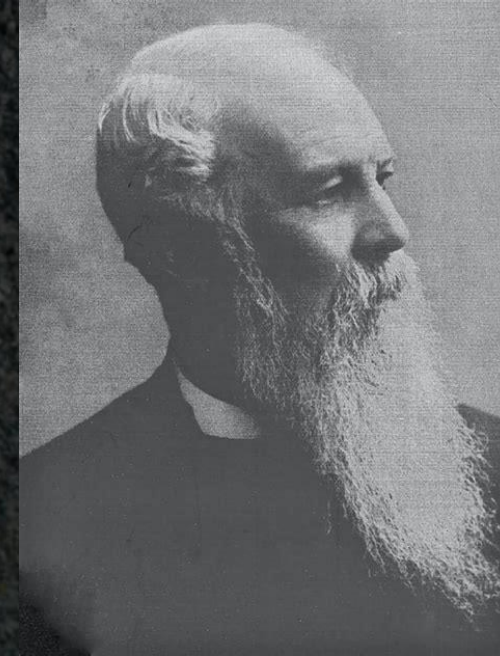
He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives or whether he dies, whether he has health or whether he has sickness, ...



J.C. Ryle
Practical Religion

...whether he is rich or whether he is poor, whether he pleases man or whether he gives offence, whether he is thought wise or whether he is thought foolish, whether he gets blame or whether he gets praise, whether he gets honor or whether he gets shame, for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all.

He burns for one thing, and that one thing is to please God and to advance to God's glory.”



J.C. Ryle
Practical Religion

- Means “to make a request” or “to beseech”
- Used when asking a question but also making requests.
- In Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer in (John 16:26; 17:15, 20)

What is Asking?

- Means “to exhort someone to conduct”
- Seeing someone that needs to be go somewhere morally and they aren’t there yet
- In Romans 12:1 and I Corinthians 1:10

What is Urging?

5x in Romans

2x in Philippians

4x in II Corinthians

4x in Colossians

2x in Galatians

3x in I Thessalonians

8x in Ephesians

2x in II Thessalonians

“Walking” in Paul’s Writings

*¹² Therefore, my beloved,
as you have always obeyed, so now,
not only as in my presence but much
more in my absence,
work out your own salvation with fear
and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who
works in you, both to will and to work
for his good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:12-13

“Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

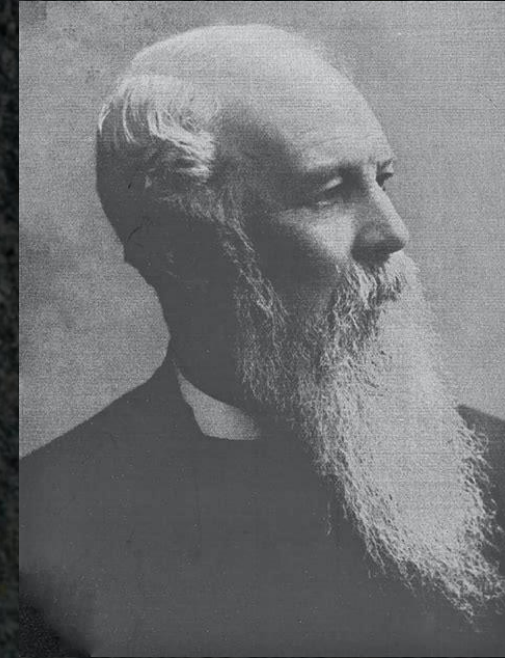


C.S. Lewis
The Weight of Glory

1. Being zealous to please God is good for our own souls.
2. Being zealous to please God is good for the church.
3. Being zealous to please God is good for the world.

3 Reasons We Must Be Zealous to Please God
J.C. Ryle

“Zeal has eyes to see,
and a heart to feel,
and a head to devise,
and a tongue to plead,
and hands to work,
and feet to travel,
in order to rescue poor
souls and raise them
from their fallen state.”



J.C. Ryle
Practical Religion

KEY POINT:

In the Christian life, keep the main thing the main thing.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

1. Rest often.

2. Pray often.

2 Ways to Please God