

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:14 KJV



Today's world teems with mottos like, “Know yourself! Be true to yourself! Just do it! Grab all the gusto! And the list continues with philosophies founded in pride and gratification. Men are encouraged to indulge, splurge, and gouge to achieve their desires no matter the cost! Those who follow Christ's teaching that this world's pleasures are temporal and *“contentment with Godliness is great gain,”* are thought of as *“peculiar people.”* It's peculiar to be content with what is considered poverty by this world. It is peculiar to help others at your own expense. It is peculiar to believe in God and obey His laws. To excel over others is considered success by the world, where believers are exhorted to *“esteem the other better than themselves.”* It is considered peculiar to seek the advancement of another before yourself. Those who follow Christ will be treated as He was by the world. He was rejected, scorned, mocked, abused, and finally crucified. He had no home, no bed, and no tomb. His feet were His mode of transportation. He spent His days ministering to others for He *“came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* When falsely accused, *“He answered not a word.”* We instinctually immediately defend with word and deed any threat to our person, not that it is wrong to do so, but it is wrong to consider ourselves a higher priority than our obedience to God. *“For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* Jesus never promised a bed of roses to His followers. He implied quite the contrary. *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.”* When we are so close to the Lord Jesus that we are more concerned with his desires than our own, we will find in Jesus the fulfillment of all desire! *“Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart! Great peace have they which love Thy Law and nothing shall offend them!”* What is it that all men seek? The realization of desire! The acquisition of delight! The plateau of peace! Jesus promised, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* Why would you seek on your own that which may be had for the asking? Yet men foolishly believe the Devil's lie that they can find true joy without Christ!

Faith is strange to blinded men,
Bound in shackles of their own sin,
They cannot know the sheer delight,
Of walking with the KING of Light! -CGP

Dear believer, men will find you peculiar if you please Christ and find in His companionship more pleasure than could ever be found in temporal delights! Believers know that their reward in Heaven is far greater far than anything they could ever conjure up in their imagination! They know, because God has revealed to those who believe and trust His Word a glimpse of what is ahead!

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 KJV