

Compliments Given By God

Introduction. Men desire the applause of other men: the elation of being rewarded with a standing ovation; receiving a great reward or medal; acknowledging one's life's accomplishments; being acclaimed as the greatest athlete, etc.

The problem with the praise of men is the temptation to believe too much. At best, men can only judge by their own knowledge — and that knowledge is limited by what they perceive. Man cannot know the true nature of the one praised.

It is more worthwhile to listen to the One who judges men because He knows their hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). We can enjoy the accolades given by men but we should really care about what God says about us. Thankfully, we have many tributes to faithful men in the Old Testament. From those, we can see what God appreciates in His humble subjects (Romans 15:4).

I. Paul Sets The Rule

- A. 2 Corinthians 10.
 - 1. Vs. 12 — not wise to measure ourselves by ourselves.
 - 2. Vss. 17-18 — our glory should only be in the Lord.
- B. The only commendation that matters is what God says (Proverbs 21:2; 27:2; Luke 16:15).

II. Compliments Given By God

- A. Compliments give to "My servant" (cp. John 12:26).
 - 1. Abraham (Genesis 26:24).
 - 2. Moses (Numbers 12:7-8).
 - 3. Caleb (Numbers 14:24).
 - 4. David (1 Kings 11:36-38).
 - 5. Isaiah (Isaiah 20:3).
- B. Compliments given by God about Enoch.
 - 1. He walked with God (Genesis 5:22).
 - 2. He pleased God (Hebrews 11:5).
- C. Compliments given by God about Noah.
 - 1. He was righteous before God (Genesis 7:1).
 - 2. He did what God commanded (Genesis 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16).
- D. Compliments given by God about Abraham.
 - 1. As a father (Genesis 18:17-19).
 - 2. As a friend to God (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23).
- E. Compliments given by God about Moses.
 - 1. He was faithful and meek (Numbers 12:3).
 - 2. God spoke to him in a unique manner (Exodus 33:11).

3. He was faithful in all his house (Hebrews 3:5).
 4. There was none like him (Deuteronomy 34:10-12).
- F. Compliments given by God about Job.
1. There was none like him in the earth (Job 1:8; 2:3).
 2. When Job struggled to remain righteous he was blessed by God (Job 42:10, 12).
- G. Compliments given by God about David.
1. He was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).
 2. God is honest about His commendations (1 Kings 15:5).

Conclusion. How would the Lord commend you? Would He say you stand for the truth? Would He say you properly use your tongue? Would He say you properly use your talents? Would He say you sacrifice your life? Will you hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21)?