How To Find Favor In the Eyes of the Lord
GENESIS 6:8

“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”

Introduction
All our lives, you and I have sought the FAVOR of someone.

*Remember when we were little kids, how we would color or draw a picture and take it to our mom or dad for their approval? We were seeking their favor.

* Did you ever have a FAVORITE teacher in grade school or High School? Remember how much harder we worked in that teacher’s class? It was because we wanted to FIND FAVOR in their eyes.

* And who among us here today didn’t do some pretty stupid stuff when we were teenagers........to try to impress our friends or some boy or girl we really liked? It was because we wanted to FIND FAVOR in their eyes.

(PAUSE)

“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”
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NOAH has always been one of my favorite PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE. If you were like me, you probably first heard the story of Noah and the Ark when you were sitting on your mother’s knee.......or......perhaps from your very first
Sunday School teacher.

Because we learned of NOAH at such an early age, there is a tendency to think of NOAH as a Story Book Character, rather than a real, live human being. BUT we know God’s Word is true........and the BIBLE teaches us that NOAH was a real person who once walked on this earth, just like you and me.

Besides the fact he built the Ark, what else do we know about NOAH?

We learn in Genesis 5: 28, 29 that Noah’s father’s name was LAMECH ......who was 182 years old when NOAH was born. Can you imagine a 182 year old man down on the floor wrestling with a little toddler?

Going back even farther in NOAH’S FAMILY TREE we discover in Genesis 5:26 that Noah was the grandson of Methusaleh, who still holds the distinction of being the oldest human being who ever lived.

We also learn in Genesis 6:18 that NOAH was married, although the scriptures never mention the name of his wife. We have always affectionately referred to her as “Mrs. Noah.”

Genesis 5: 32 tells us that when NOAH was 500 years old, he and the Mrs. had three sons......Shem, Ham and Japheth. And that each of them eventually married.

Of course we know it was these EIGHT members of Noah’s family, God spared aboard the Ark, when he destroyed the world with a catastrophic flood.

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But more important than all this BIOGRAPHICAL data about NOAH, was NOAH’S character.

6:8,9  But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

Now contrast the life of Noah with the way the rest of the world was living at that time. (Genesis 6:5-7)

6:5  The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.
6:6  The Lord was grieved that he had made man on earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

6:7  So the Lord said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth---men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air---for I am grieved that I have made them.”

Now listen again to verse 8.........

6:8  But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

In the TEN GENERATIONS that had passed from the time Adam and Eve committed the very first sin in the Garden of Eden to the days of Noah, man had completely turned his mind and heart away from GOD and toward sin.

VERSE 5 said.........”every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”

The whole world was “BLANKETED IN THE DARKNESS OF SIN”.........but in all this darkness, there stood one man who’s life shone like a bright star.........And that man was NOAH........A RIGHTEOUS MAN ........A BLAMELESS MAN........A MAN WHO WALKED WITH GOD.

How Can You and I Find Favor in the Eyes of the Lord?

As we look a little more closely at NOAH’S life, I want to point out THREE things he did that GOD found favorable.

First of all.........

I. Noah Did What Was Right When Everyone Else Was Doing Wrong

   6:9a  This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time.

   1. We have already learned that NOAH lived in a society where
no one did what was right in the eyes of GOD.......everyone’s mind was bent on doing wrong all the time.

2. While everyone around him was chose to do what was RIGHT in their own eyes, NOAH choose to do what was RIGHT in GOD’S eyes.

3. In his book, *The Cheating Culture*, Don Callahan says, we are living in a time when everybody seems to think its OK to do wrong, just because everybody else is doing it.

   School Students cheat on tests, because “everybody’s doing it.”

   Athletes take steroids, because “everybody else is doing it.”

   People cheat on insurance claims and tax returns, because “everybody else is doing it.”

   “Doctors write unnecessary prescriptions, because “everybody else is doing it.”

   “People illegally download music and movies, because “everybody else is doing it.”

   Even many who claim to be Christians reject God’s standard of righteousness in favor of what “feels right” for them personally or what society accepts as right.

4. In the EYES of GOD........RIGHT is always RIGHT and WRONG is always WRONG.........No matter how many people are doing it.

   It doesn’t matter if all fifty states pass laws to legalize every type of perverse behavior known to man, from SAME-SEX MARRIAGES to ABORTION to CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, it will never make it right.

5. If you and I are to FIND FAVOR IN THE EYES OF THE LORD we must do as NOAH did in his day and that is DO RIGHT EVEN WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS DOING WRONG!
Secondly............

II. Noah Walked With God Even When No One Else Did

6:9 Noah was a righteous man, blameless along the people of his time, and he walked with God.

1. What does it mean to “walk with God?” It literally means “to walk in God’s footsteps.”

   analogy: Did you ever walk in your dad’s footsteps in the snow?

   A lot of times, when a boy gets into the same career of his father, he is said to “be following in the footsteps of his dad.”

2. When we FOLLOW someone’s FOOTSTEPS it means we “stay in step” with them..........“we follow their path.”

3. SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING.........When we WALK with GOD we “follow GOD’S footsteps” ...........”we stay in step with God” ...........”we follow in His path.”

4. In NOAH’S day NO ONE was walking with GOD........everyone made his own path.

   -Only NOAH walked with GOD!
   -Only NOAH stayed in step with GOD!
   -Only NOAH followed God’s footsteps!

5. BOY its tough to WALK WITH GOD when no one else around you does.

   Some of you have the fortune of having several Christians working with you, and I’m sure you gain strength and encouragement by working with people who share the same faith as you.

   But on the other hand.........some of you may work at a job
where you are the only Christian. Perhaps you are the only one who goes to church on Sundays. Perhaps you are the only one who doesn’t take God’s Name in vain or tell dirty jokes. Perhaps you are the only one who isn’t cheating on your mate.

Let me encourage you to WALK WITH GOD even if nobody else around you does.

6. Illustration-----When I preaching in Illinois, we had a young teenage girl in the church named Laramie Pontious. She came from a horrible family background. Her father had physically and sexually abused her. And both her parents were alcoholics.

And yet Sunday after Sunday, Laramie would get her little brother, Monty up and get him dressed for church, and together the two of them would sit on the third pew.

My heart went out to Laramie, because she was trying to WALK WITH GOD.......even when no one else in her family did.

7. No matter how discouraging it may get at times KEEP WALKING WITH GOD, EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE AROUND YOU DOES! Noah did.......and he found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah Found Favor in the Eyes of the Lord by Doing What Was Right When Everyone Was Doing Wrong.

He Found Favor in the Eyes of the Lord by Walking With God Even When No One Else Did.

And thirdly............

III. Noah Trusted God, Even When He Didn’t Understand

1. In verses 11-21, GOD reveals to NOAH His plan to destroy the world.
In verse 17, GOD told NOAH he was going to do this by bringing a FLOOD upon the earth. NOAH had never seen or heard of a flood before........As a matter of fact, no one on earth had ever even seen RAIN before.

In verses 14-16, GOD gave NOAH specific instructions for building this huge boat, which was as long as three football fields and as high as a three story building. NOAH had never heard of an ARK before.

In verse 22, GOD told NOAH he wanted him to take TWO of EVERY KIND of ANIMAL on board this big boat, along with the seven members of his family. NOAH didn’t understand just how he was supposed to GET these ANIMALS on the ARK.

As a matter-of-fact, NOAH didn’t understand ANY of GOD’S plan........but notice VERSE 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

2. In your life and mine, there are times when everything in side of us is crying out.........”God, this doesn’t make a bit of sense!”

-GOD is telling us NO......when everything inside us is saying YES.

-GOD is telling us to WAIT.......when everything inside us is telling us to GO AHEAD.

-GOD is telling us to LEAVE IT ALONE.......when everything inside us is telling us to TAKE IT.

-GOD is telling us NOW IS NOT THE TIME.....when everything inside us is telling us NOW IS THE BEST TIME.

3. There will always be TIMES when we DO not understand GOD’S plan.......or....His timing........or His Ways........BUT GOD doesn’t ask to UNDERSTAND, HE asks us to TRUST HIM and OBEY HIM.

4. DAY after DAY for 120 Years, NOAH worked on that ARK ............perhaps without ever fully understanding what was to
came, and yet HE trusted GOD and obeyed him, by doing everything GOD commanded him to do.

And Noah Found Favor in the Eyes of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

This account of Noah’s life has more to do with you and me than we might think.

Listen very carefully to Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:36-39.....

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Like NOAH.....you and I are living in a world that is bent on continuously doing what is EVIL and WICKED in the sight of GOD.

Like NOAH........you and I are living in a world where it is becoming more and more difficult to BE A FOLLOWER OF GOD.

Like NOAH...you and I are living in a world GOD has marked for destruction.

When our life is over, the greatest testimony to a life well-lived, will not be that we found FAVOR in the EYES of PEOPLE........but that we found FAVOR in the EYES of the LORD.

Do what is RIGHT even if everybody around you is doing wrong!

WALK with GOD, even if it seems no one around is.

TRUST in GOD, even when YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND.

Like Noah, may it be our aim in life to FIND FAVOR
IN THE EYES OF THE LORD!