Introduction:

1. The focus word for this lesson is “abiding” - see Jn 8:31-32
2. Read text: “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”
3. We please God by abiding in proper things.

Proposition: To please God, we must abide in that which is proper.
Interrogative: What are some proper things we should abide in?

-- For the Christian to please God, he should abide in… --

I. FAITH
A. DEFINITION - Greek word “pistis”
   1. Biblical definition found - He 11:1
   2. Thayer - “the conviction that God exist and is creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.”

B. IMPORTANCE
   1. Essential for…
      a. Pleasing God - He 11:6
      b. Forgiveness and eternal life - Jn 8:24; 20:30-31
   2. Without faith doubt and fear prevail - Mt 14:30-31

C. ACTIVATION
   1. The word of God is designed to produce faith - Ro 10:17
      a. Converted Muslim - came from reading God’s word
      b. Catholic priest - converted by reading pamphlet/Bible
   2. For faith to be of value it must be active
      a. Show faith without works… - Ja 2:18
      b. Faith without works is dead - Ja 2:17, 26

II. HOPE
A. DEFINITION
   1. Thayer - “joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.”
   2. Biblical passages:
      a. Paul - Ac 26:5-7
      b. Peter - 1Pe 3:15

B. IMPORTANCE
   1. Hope is essential for perseverance - Ro 8:24-25
      “For if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”
   2. Hope is our motivation for purity - 1Jn 3:3
   3. Without hope, our focus on heavenly things is lost.

C. ACTIVATION
   1. The word of God is designed to produce hope - Ro 15:4
      a. Through the eye to the past, we know God keeps His word.
b. Through this we can be confident of God’s promises.

2. Note the words of Peter - 1Pe 1:13-16
   a. Our hope is activated when rested fully on Christ.
   b. When rested fully on Christ, our hope motivates purity.

III. LOVE
    A. DEFINITION
       1. Note Paul’s definition - 1Co 13:4-8
       2. Simple definition - Active goodwill

    B. IMPORTANCE
       1. Gives us the confidence in daily living - 1Jn 3:16-19
       2. Gives us assurance in our prayers - 1Jn 3:22-23
       3. Gives us assurance that we abide in God - 1Jn 4:7-8

    C. ACTIVATION
       1. The Thessalonians were taught by God how to love - 1Th 4:9
       2. God taught love through sending His Son - 1Jn 4:9-11
       3. When we find it hard to love, let us look to the example of Christ - Ro 5:6-8

Conclusion:
1. Our basic goal as Christians is to live a life pleasing unto God.
2. We can certainly please God when we abide in faith, hope, & love.