

## MY PLEASURE

-Ryan Parsons-

Recently, we loaded up eight strong in the new whip affectionately named “The Joy Bus” and headed over to a nearby drive through to pick up dinner. It had been a busy day, and we had happily placed our order online instead of firing up the Parsons’ restaurant. After we pulled into the well-marked drive-thru line and checked in, we circled around to the place where they would hand us our receipt. As always, I said, “Thank you!” The worker promptly replied, “My Pleasure!” How nice is that?

I really enjoy that restaurant; both the food and the service. I appreciate the politeness that they train their staff to lavish on their customers. However, it got me to wondering...was that worker truly glad to be able to help our hungry clan? Was it, at that moment, her pleasure to serve our family, OR was it a preprogrammed response birthed from a carefully deployed corporate culture and an effective employee orientation? We will never know.

That got me to thinking about a certain man who got jumped and beaten down while traveling alone (Luke 10:25-37). As a result, he nearly died. When he awoke the next day, he must have been weary sporting swollen eyes, fat and busted lips, and a killer headache. No doubt he was still a little disoriented and possibly dizzy. I imagine he must have said thank you with a raspy, almost unintelligible voice to the Good Samaritan who had saved his life. At that moment, I would be curious to know if he responded with the cultural equivalent of “My Pleasure!”

We serve a God whose pleasure is to not only redeem us from the perils of sin, but to also adopt us and give us the kingdom as sons of His (Luke 12:32).

### **Ephesians 1:4-5 (NIV)**

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

As his sons and daughters and heirs of that kingdom, we are called to live in the same way (Matthew 22:36-40).

### **1 Corinthians 10:23-24**

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.”

May God bless and guide us as we live an authentic “My Pleasure!” life.