

COULD IT BE????

Philippians 2:12-16

- **COULD IT BE ????????**

- Think about how we pray and what we pray!

- Philippians 2:12-16 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 **for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**
- 14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ESV

- **God is a Worker!** He is the greatest worker in the universe.
- **Paul's Admonition** "We're still under construction; God isn't finished with us yet!"
- **3 Aspects of God's Work;**
- **God's internal work.** "...it is God who works in you..."
 - We are under construction from the inside out. Authentic Christianity is an "inside job"!
 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you" (Ezekiel 36:26). That in essence is exactly what He does by His internal work.
- **God's immediate work.**
 - God is right now, in the present moment, working in the lives of every one of His children.
 - There is God-work going on within us continually.
- **God is a consistent worker**—when He takes us into His family, He begins a work that He never terminates until He accomplishes His purpose.
 - "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

- **God's Purpose:**

- for it is God who works in you, **both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**
- God's purpose is to produce within us a willingness to do His will.
- "...God ...works in you...to will..."

- The Weymouth translation of Philippians 2:13 is as follows: "It is God himself whose power creates within you both the desire and the power to execute his gracious will."

- John 3:30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

- **He's Still Working on Me**

- Philippians 2:12-16 What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. 13 That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, **God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.**
- 14 Do everything readily and cheerfully — no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! 15 Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night

- **THE WORK THAT WE ARE TO BE DOING** “...work out your own salvation...”
- **The Manner in which our salvation is worked out** – “with fear and trembling”
 - Do we act differently based on who we are around?
 - There are 2 parts of our salvation; one complete (justification), and the other still needing perfecting (sanctification).
- The work of Christ(justification) we have no part in; we are never told to work that out, but to receive it by faith.
 - **Romans 4:4-8** When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. 5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.
 - 6 David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:
 - 7 "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. 8 Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin." NLT

- **SANCTIFICATION**

- We have two natures co-existing in us; the old sinful nature from Adam & Eve, and the new Creation life from Jesus Christ (Justification), planted in us.
- Sanctification – the process of growth that brings about the death of one life and the birth of another. For NEW LIFE to come in, it must displace the old life.
 - Our tempers have to be brought under control; our conversation, our desires, our will, our selfishness. We need to begin to think as God does, to love as God loves; to be patient and persevere in difficulties; to work for the Kingdom of God.

- **The Battle is Real!**

- **A Must Understand!**

The Means - 14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life,

1. By the conduct of our lives.

- “No bickering, no second-guessing allowed!” –(The Message);
- “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” –(NIV);
- “Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining and questioning and doubting among yourselves.” –(Amplified Bible)
- If our salvation does not improve what comes out of our mouths, who will listen to the Word of God when we speak it?
- The sounds of displeasure that come from our mouths originate in our minds –they are the outflow of an attitude toward God and those around us.
 - i. Numbers 11:1 Soon the people began to complain about their hardship, and the Lord heard everything they said. Then the Lord's anger blazed against them, and he sent a fire to rage among them, and he destroyed some of the people in the outskirts of the camp. NLT
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 10:10-11 And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. NLT

- “Grumblers” by Thoro Harris
 - “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14)
2. By the consistency of our light - “among whom you shine as lights in the world”
 - Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).
 3. By the communication of the Word of God - “holding fast the word of life...”
 - The gospel is the single message that provides eternal life.
 - The salvation that God worked into believers was the result of hearing and embracing by faith the Gospel.

- Think about Jesus example for us -
 - In His youth - Luke 2:49 "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"
 - Later on - John 5:17 But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."
 - Middle of His ministry - John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. NKJV
 - End of His ministry - John 17:4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ESV
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- God has been at work with in us!
- God is at work within us!
- God will continue to be at work within us!