To Will, To Work

Tony Mauck · Philippians 2:12–13

INTRODUCTION

- Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. … this is really our walking papers as believers in God.
- But 12 and 13 go together. It's like peanut butter and jelly.

1 Work Out Your Salvation With Fear and Trembling

Philippians 2:12

- So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only.
- It's talking about personal responsibility. And that's a message that resonates with people.
- You see, you have to work out your salvation, and I can't do it for you.
- The point of Philippians 2, 12 and 13 is that you have significant assistance from heaven.

2 God at Work in You, to Will and to Work

Philippians 2:13

- Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for God is at work in you. To will to work.
- Yes, work out your salvation, personal responsibility, but please understand God is at work in you to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- I wonder if we're falling short in accomplishing this in the lives of believers.

3 The Cart Before the Horse

1 Timothy 5; John 8:29

- The role of baptism in God's scheme to redeem us from our sins, to cause our sins to be washed away by the blood of Christ, to come into union with our Savior.
- But I wonder if we're getting the proverbial cart before the horse in some of that.
- If you understand, if your focus is my purpose, the purpose of my being, the course of my life, that it's really not about me and what I want to do.
- Our Savior set the Father's will in pleasing him at the center of his life. I always do the things that are pleasing to him.
- The center of their life is not God at work in them to will and to work for his good pleasure. They're still king in their lives.

4 Which Godhead Member Is the Acting Agent?

John 1:3; Colossians 1; Romans 8:13

- So Jesus was involved in creation and in redemption, in a very special way and unique way among the persons of the Godhead.

- God is working in concert or union to accomplish these things. They are perfectly one.
- It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us. It is the Holy Spirit. By Him we are putting to death the deeds of the flesh.
- He's changing us by a mighty message. And he's changing us by a persistent providence.

5 How Do You See Yourself?

Hebrews 7:25; Isaiah 61:3; 2 Timothy 2:21

- The bigger question is your assurance that God is working in you. I wonder if our thoughts of God are too small and what he can accomplish through us and in us.
- Oaks of righteousness. They will be the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.
- Do you see yourself as his instrument? I'm an instrument. Or as Paul would tell Timothy, a vessel for honor, useful to the master.
- I am his confident child. I trust in him completely. That his word is true, his will is right.

6 Our God Is So Deserving

- Whatever the devil is offering you is an inferior ride that has a huge dead end at the end of it.
- Our God is so deserving. He is awesome. He's deserving of your submissive response.
- Not only is he deserving, he has made awesome provisions for his people to be enjoyed.
- Whatever it is that you're going to love more than God. … rest assured it's temporary.

THE CHALLENGE

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Come to him while there's time and opportunity.

MY NOTES