

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Class 3 – “Prepared Unto All Good Works”

Rocky Mountain Bible School - 2015

SUMMARY OF CLASS 2

- The activity of God through His Spirit has been consistent for believers since Eden
- There is an intimacy – not one size fits all – God knows **YOU** and your needs
- If we forsake sin, the Father and Son will make their abode with us
- He is shaping our minds to be like His
- He is readying us for work that He has prepared in advance for us to do
- He moves us, guides us, GOADS us in the right direction
- He intends for us to find great comfort and encouragement from His work in our lives

GOD: PRAYER AND CONFIDENCE

- 1 God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
- 2 Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.
- 3 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and will break
In blessings on your head.
- 4 His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour:
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.
- 5 Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

A COMMENT ON SELF-EXAMINATION



- When we accurately compare ourselves to Christ, we look to identify threats and need for correction
- Self-examination is absolutely critical to a child of God – when it breaks, we are at great risk
- However, we must remember that we are His workmanship
- Rejoice when we see Him changing us, behaviors being modified
- We need to acknowledge it and give thanks for it
- When all we do is focus on our failures, we fail to live lives of “purged consciences”

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.” 1 Corinthians 11:28

“examine” is dokimazo – to test metals. To remove impurities under intense heat



The refinement is not just to remove the dross and impurities (which is important), but it is to reveal the beautiful, purified gold that already existed!

WHAT SELF-EXAMINATION MAY LEAD TO FOR SOME



- “None of us are holy – we are all flawed and of no inherent value.”
- “When I look at my life, all I see is failure.”
- A sad defeatism that we are sinners and we will just have to count on God’s grace to save

- 1 Everlasting, changing never!
Of one strength, no more, no less:
Thou, almightiness for ever—
All the same Thy holiness:
God eternal, God eternal,
All things, all dost Thou possess.
- 2 We poor weak ones, once poor sinners,
Would not in our weakness stay;
We, the low ones, would be winners
Of the bright and living way,
Which ascending, which ascending
Leads in Christ to perfect day.
- 3 Nearer to Thee would we venture,
Of Thy truth more largely take;
Upon life diviner enter,
Into day more glorious break—
Life eternal! life eternal!
Which Thy word by Jesus spake.

HERE'S THE DANGER OF FLESHLY DEFEATISM

“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 5:20-21; 6:1-3

AN ALTERNATIVE SELF-EXAMINATION

- I am a work of art by God and He is actively shaping me through various means
- There are many areas that I can see clearly where He has already changed me – I can feel the dross has been wiped away
- There are some areas where the change process is still ongoing and I can see where it is “taking” and where it is failing
- There are areas where it is clear I need to be more receptive to His direction

SO, PRAISE THE ARTIST!

- When you speak a word in season to another person
 - When you, because of your conviction to serve God, passed by and avoided sin
 - When against every impulse of the flesh you held your tongue
 - When you suffered wrongful blame for Christ's sake
 - When you put aside your own desires to serve another
 - When your study of the Word unearths a treasure!
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THE WORK AHEAD

TWO WRONG VIEWS

I accomplished this through
my own spiritual insights
and mastery of the
Scriptures

Because I am faithful, I did
this important work

God revealed to me
personally what to do and
made the choice plain

God did the work, I had
nothing really to do with it

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 (RSV)

“And you he **made** alive, when you **were** dead through the trespasses and sins in which you **once** walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all **once lived** in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we **were** by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, **made us alive together** with Christ (by grace you **have been** saved), and **raised us** up with him, and **made us sit** with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace **you have been saved** through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God— not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we **are** his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

VERSE 10 IN A FEW OTHER VERSIONS

- “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” RSV
- “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” ESV
- “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” NIV
- “For of Him we are workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God did before prepare, that in them we may walk.” YLT

PREPARED IN ADVANCE

“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he **had afore prepared** unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?” Romans 9:21-28

“afore prepared” – CP Paul as a “chosen vessel” in Acts 9:15.

“prepared” is same Greek word as “ordained” in Ephesians 2:10

OUR ROLE – JOHN 6:27-29

“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Then said they unto him, **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?** Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**”

Context is after the miracle of the loaves and the disciples asking what they should do to do the works of God. The Lord's direction was “believe.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:19-21

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his**. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**”

“seal” – sphragis – a stamp impressed as a mark of privacy or genuineness

THE ATONEMENT AND OUR WORK

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Hebrews 9:13-14

WE ARE NOT SAVED BY WORKS...

WE ARE SAVED FOR WORKS!

THE WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

John 5:30

Critically important to understand the work of Jesus. His work was just and righteous because his mind was spiritually focused on the will of his Father and not his own. This is a key to our service – get our minds in line with the will of God.

THE WORK PREPARED FOR OUR LORD

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.”

John 17:4,6

CORINTH – THE WORK TO BE DONE

“Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace. For I am with thee and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: **for I have much people in this city.** And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”

Acts 18:9-11



THE CONDITIONS OF A PEOPLE ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, **and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.** These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”

Titus 2:11-15

A PATTERN EMERGES...

- Our first role is to believe and forsake ungodliness and fleshly lusts – make ourselves a habitation for the Spirit
- As a holy people, we are to learn and grow from the experiences that our Lord exposes us to
- It is the Lord who quickens us and prepares us for work that lies ahead – we are his “work of art!”
- He will provide the opportunity for us to serve – our requirement is to be ZEALOUS of good works

THE SPIRIT LEADING AND SHAPING –
PREPARING UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS

MADE PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING

“Though he were a Son, yet **learned** he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

Hebrews 5:8-9

THORN IN THE FLESH

“For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

JOSEPH – PREPARED FOR A GREAT WORK

“And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years *hath* the famine *been* in the land: and yet *there are* five years, in the which *there shall* neither *be* earing nor harvest. **And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now *it was not you that* sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”**

Genesis 45:4-8

WAS HE ALWAYS AWARE OF GOD'S PLAN?

“And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, *said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.* And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God *hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.*” Genesis 40:50-52

“And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him. ***And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them,*** and said unto them, *Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*”
Genesis 41:8-9

PREPARED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS - MOSES



AWARE OF INSUFFICIENCY - EXODUS 4:10-12

“And Moses said unto the LORD, I pray LORD, **I have not been sufficient in former times**, neither from the time that thou hast begun to speak to thy servant; **I am weak in speech and slow-tongued.**” LXX

“In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was **mighty in words and in deeds.**”
Acts 7:20-22

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-7,10

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”

verse 7 – earthen vessels – “clay jars”

verse 10 – “bearing about” – ***periphero*** – to convey or transport – CP

Hebrews 13:13 – “Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing (***phero***) his reproach.”

PREPARED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS

- Those who have suffered are in a unique place to serve others
- Those who have experienced the joys of preaching the Gospel can reach out to others to have them taste and see
- Those who had experienced the loss of their job can support the brother who is emotionally distraught going through the experience
- Those who have struggled with a sin and escaped can be a covert in the storm for those experiencing similar issues

1 TIMOTHY 1:12,16

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”

“enabled me” – ESV – “given me strength”

CP Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

2 THESS. 2:13-14

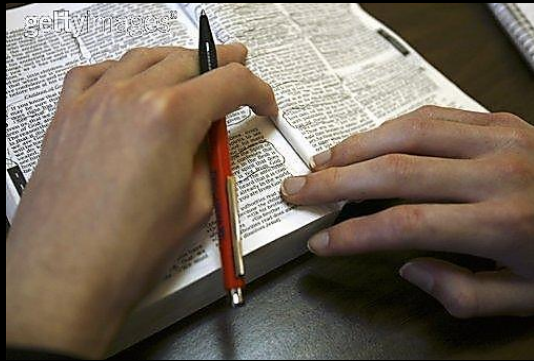
“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation **through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth**: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, **Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.**”

HOW DO WE APPLY THIS TO OURSELVES?

SOMETIMES WE LACK A NATURAL TALENT



BUT IN THE TRUTH, IS IT HUMILITY OR LACK OF FAITH?



“I’m not good at Bible study”



I’m not a good speaker or teacher”



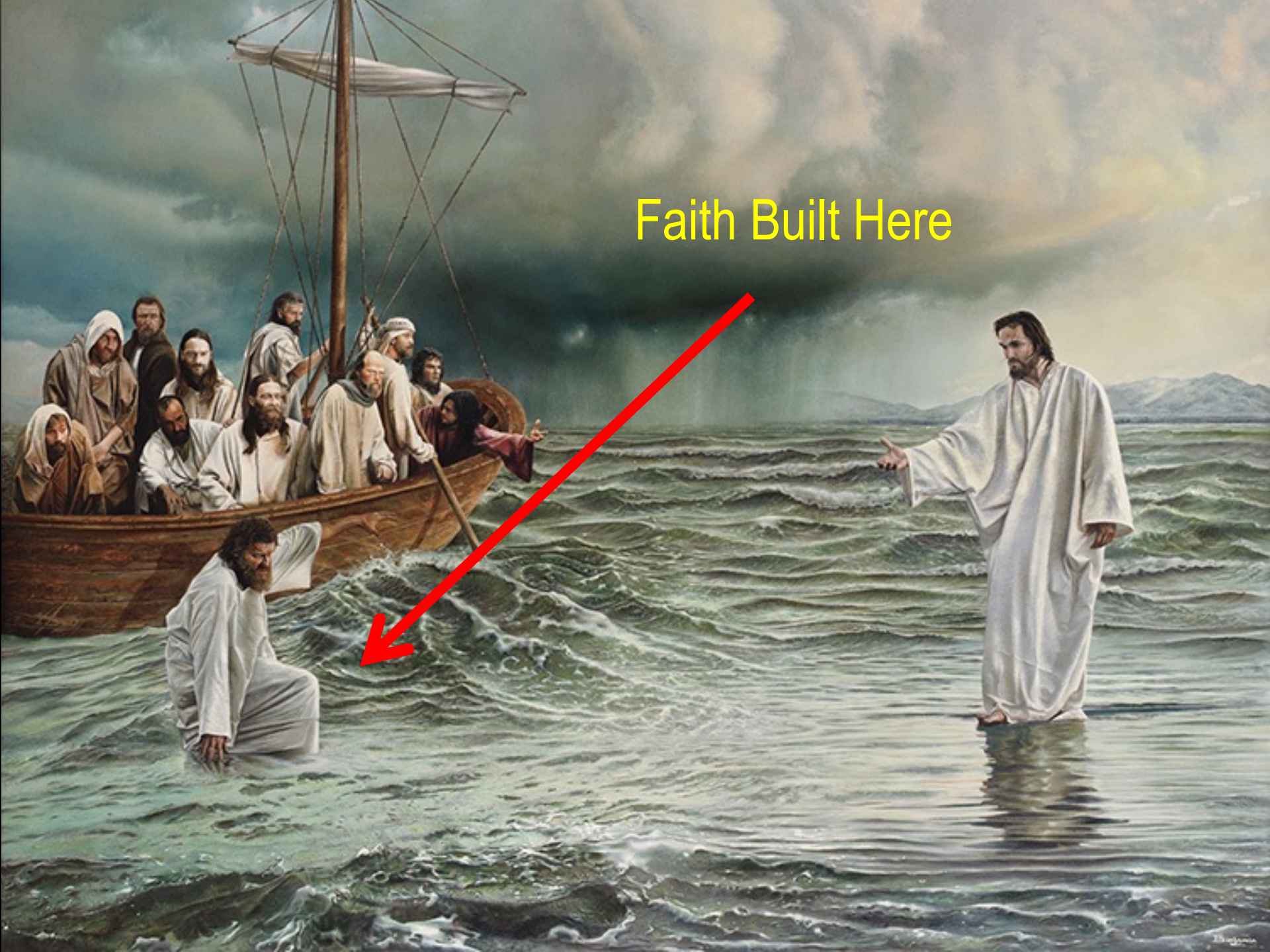
I’m not good at preaching to my friends”

REMEMBER HOW WE ARE ROOTED IN CHRIST IN LOVE?

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.” (NASB)

1 John 4:18

Faith Built Here



PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - PREACHING

- I have experienced appropriate passages come to mind just at the right time in classes
- Often they are passages I had not thought about recently and certainly was not planning to discuss during the class
- It is a deeply spiritual experience, which leaves me with a very unique feeling
- BUT, I have never had a passage come to mind that I have never studied or read!
- I am convinced that the Lord assists me in my work – I am not alone
- However, one has to be a willing servant and have done their homework!

For me, it makes me want to do this work every time I get a chance!

A FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

- Cast aside our perceptions of what we can or cannot do – that is evaluating our capability with the flesh
- We can do all things through Christ, who empowers and strengthens us
- He knows us and he knows our potential for faith and service
- He will not take us the way of the Philistines if we are unable to succeed
- But, he does know what we can be capable of and has a master plan of good works for us to personally do
- Will we limit God by limiting ourselves?

THE ROLE OF THE SCRIPTURES

SCRIPTURE PREPARES US

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

- “reproof” – **elegmos** – a proving, a test, or evidence
- “correction” – **epanorthesis** – restoration to an upright or right state
- “instruction” – **paideia** – training (Eph. 6:4 – “nurture”)
- “furnished” - **exartizo** – to finish out, equip fully

What is the purpose of this training and knowledge? That we might be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

ENGRAFTED/IMPLANTED WORD

“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the **engrafted** word, which is able to save your souls.”

James 1:20-21

“For the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the **implanted** word, which is able to save your souls.” RSV

“ENGRAFTED” “IMPLANTED” WORD

- This is the only place this verb occurs in Scripture
- It is NOT “grafted in” as in Romans 11:24 (wild olive tree grafted unto good)
- It represents internal growth – within the person
- The Word grows in us and is able to “save our souls”

HEBREWS 4:12

“For the word of God is quick (zao – to live, be alive), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

For the Word that God speaks is alive and active; it cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword: it strikes through to the place where soul and spirit meet, to the innermost intimacies of a man's being: it exposes the very thoughts and motives of a man's heart. No creature has any cover from the sight of God; everything lies naked and exposed before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” JBP

CORRESPONDENCE WITH EVANGELICAL FRIEND

“One cannot “know” God from a book, and the book just helps one to conjure up images and ideas in their mind and then try to live those ideas from their mind. This is not living the way man was designed to live. God cannot be achieved. Religion wants to pave a way to God like a course. If you just follow the path, you will reach God. I do not think this is possible. God is not a course, a certification program. The immeasurable, the Creator, can only be found by knowing oneself, otherwise anyone could achieve a place where this Creator would dwell with them. The Almighty is incomprehensible, immeasurable, the creator of all that is seen and unseen, so how could anyone claim to know this Almighty Creator from reading a book, or listening to a preacher or priest? Living what the Bible says is still living to an idea and this is living in one’s mind tainted by their own experiences, conditioning, education and culture. This is contradictory to being renewed from within one’s mind, being born again, from being still so one can know God. One cannot be born from knowledge, this is silly to think so. Man fell for knowledge and all are born subject to this sin, so how does one think by more knowledge they can achieve the incomprehensible?”

CORRESPONDENCE, CONTINUED

“Our part is to be attentively aware with no judgment, self-will, or motivation - just attentive mindfulness. And in this process, one will be born again through this process of the implanted Word. There is no road map to this place Jesus speaks of, but rather it is a pathless journey because only one can know his own mind and in this process rebirthing is taking place.

You are getting your wisdom from a book, not from living in the place that Jesus was in and spoke about. If one acts with humility, is this humility or just an act? Living from a book and the Spirit of the book is not the same thing. When one lives from the Spirit no books are necessary, this the Creator will provide. Moses, Jesus and others were mere conduits of the immeasurable.”

HIS FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE

- First of all, as in many false teachings, there are certain elements of truth
 - We do not know the path that lies ahead and we can not “figure out” His plan for us
 - The truth is not a course or a certificate program – it is not measured solely by a fundamental understanding of the BASF
 - It is important to know our own selves – to empty replace our way of thinking with God’s thinking
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BUT...

- He fundamentally misses the purpose of the Word (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
 - He misses that the purpose of the Spirit in the lives of believers is to help us to think differently, which leads us to holy behavior
 - Characters in Scripture, not the least of which was the Lord Jesus Christ, used Scripture to “discern” by comparing spiritual things to spiritual – it was what led to righteous decision making and eschewing sin
 - God has never wanted robotic faith that is driven by His control without our conscious thought and belief
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MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

- The Word is a tangible, powerful manifestation of the Spirit
- It is active and drives rightful change in our minds
- While the Spirit abides with us, by the dwelling of the power of Christ in our lives, it is a primary source of strength and power to our Spirit and the Lord speaks to us through that same Word – it prepares us for good works!
- Furthermore, the extraordinary spiritual experience of reading Scripture provides us with the ultimate use of our human minds
- It is not about book knowledge. It is about understanding the mind of Christ **SO THAT WE CAN THINK AND ACT LIKE HIM**

EXHORTATION TO MODERN BELIEVERS

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS ABOUT?

- The “sufferings” we endure?
- Why sometimes our work and efforts may not be fruitful?
- About what we think we **ARE** and **ARE NOT** capable of?
- About our need to “plan out” our work as if it all depends on us?
- “Pride” over the work we do

CONCLUSION

- The Lord's power in our lives is active and involved
 - We have responsibility to believe and abstain from fleshly lusts and ungodliness
 - We need to exhibit love, since this is the ultimate manifestation of the Spirit being active in our lives
 - We must recognize that the Father and Son desire intimacy with us and they know us better than we know ourselves
 - We are a work of art, being prepared for good works
 - Progressively in our lives, we shall be conscious of the wind moving in our lives
 - Let's "put up a sail" and be zealous of the work he gives us
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CHRIST LIVING IN US!

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

CLASS 4

By This Shall Ye Know