

#4 - LIVING MEANS CHRIST (We Can Work It Out)

A "Co-Operation": Two Workers (Co-laborers)

"Work Out Your Salvation" = bring to completion; carry to full conclusion - 2:12

- ...involves considerable effort to leave nothing wanting/behind
- ...a rebuke to our passive, spectator, reflective only Christianity!
- ..."fear and trembling" = no room for flippancy, carelessness

"It Is God at Work" = active, energetic, operational power - 2:13

- ...God provides the ability and the means
- ...God never asks of us what He has not already put in us - "in you" - 2:13

We (Subjectively) Work Out Our Salvation by Consenting to the (Objective) Reality of God in Us

- ...We will not carry this out to its full conclusion without His supply, energizing
- ...He will not force/coerce us into all that He's placed within us

Meaning...

- ...God's gifts are never an excuse for passivity, carelessness
- ...God is the Agent of stimulation and supply; we are agents of cooperation of trust
 - = By grace... through faith!
- ...The Biblical story of man is the story of choosing between alternatives
 - = "My will"... or "Thy Will"
- ...A union of true lovers cannot be imposed
 - = a full and free consent to the "receptivity of His activity"
- ...So that we may be like Him = Free, Voluntary, Sacrificial Lovers!

"So That You May Prove" - 2:13

- Evil is a theory of success based upon self determination and pride
- Righteousness is a theory of success based upon God determination and humility

God's invitation is to prove ourselves to be what we already and actually are - 2:15

..."children of God": share in His nature - II Pet 1:3-4

...What we do is because of what is true (imperatives follow indicatives)

= we "work it out" because He is "at work in us"

= we "pour out" our lives because the "poured out" life of Christ is in us

= we go the "second mile" because His "second mile" life is in us

= we do not "tell lies" because no "Lie teller" is in us

= we do not "manipulate" others because there is no "manipulator" at work in us

= we do not "isolate" from others because He does not "isolate" from us

Working Out the "Kinks":

...legalism/license - 2:12: looking for personal reward... "points"/pleasure

= What is required? HUMILITY! - Phil 2:3; Ja 4:10

- repent of seeking rewards, and consent to seeking Him

...grumbling/complaining - 2:14: ego-spasms of unbelief

= What is required? WORSHIP! - Eph 5:20; Phil 4:8; Ja 1:2

- repent of "King Me" ego spasms, and consent to "King You" in all of life

...self-interested relations - 2:17ff: the self-focused life - 2:21

= What is required? PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS!

- repent of "me first" living, consent to "you first"

...fear (of risk/cost) - 2:30: fear of others, for self, of God (keeps us self-absorbed)

= What is required? LOVE OF GOD - I Jo 4:18

- repent of fearful demands for security, consent to perfect love of God

Living as Ministers - 2:25

..."litourgos": to perform public service at one's own personal expense

= self-offering for purpose of intercession - Jo 17:19

..."paraboloni": risk takers - Ro 16:4; Rev 12:11

= a calculated recklessness

"I CONSENT TO COOPERATE WITH YOUR OPERATION IN AND THROUGH ME"