

Proving What Is True (Philippians 2:12-18)

The Scriptural history of man in relation to God is the story of choosing between alternatives. We are either choosing "Thy Will - You are my Savior and my Source," or, "My will - I'll be my own savior and source, thank you." All other species may act instinctually or deterministically, but not man. Created in the image of God, Who is absolutely free, man must choose freely to be man. God created man to be at home in His family of fearless love and loving communion cannot be forced. A union of lovers cannot be imposed. To coerce would be to frustrate the very intimacy that Love (God) intends. Because God is making us like Him—free, voluntary, sacrificial lovers, human fellowship with God requires a choice - a full and free consent.

That God-like freedom to choose is behind Paul's instruction to "work out" our salvation (2:12). It is God's "good pleasure" that we do so. For God to deny us this freedom would be for Him to deny Himself the freedom to be loved and trusted. When we freely "work out" what God has already freely "worked in", Paul says we "prove" something (2:15). We prove to ourselves and to the unbelieving world that God is able to make us brand new creations. As we choose to "hold fast the word of life" (2:16) - Christ and His truth - we prove ourselves to be in experience what we already are by nature - "children of God" (2:15).

To work out our salvation by choosing to trust our Deliverer - "Thy will, not mine" - is to become what we have already received. This "becoming" (another way to translate the word "prove" in 2:15) is an ever enlarging awareness of and participation in the very nature of our Father Who abides in us! In other words, we are proving that what we do is because of what is true. What we do - work out our salvation - is because of what is true - God has already worked it into us. What we do - serve others according to need - is because of what is true - a Servant Who met our needs lives in us. What we do - go the second mile with undeserving people - is because of what is true - a Second Mile Life abides in us. What we do - choose "Thy will" over "my will" - is because of what is true - the life of "Thy Will, not mine" is now our life.

Every time we consent to cooperate with God's operation in and through us we are proving what is true - this is what we were made for!



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BITS and PIECES

CALENDAR

As I write this newsletter (in March), not only has spring 'sprung' here in Florida, but it has sprung a leak! (More like a downpour.) Its been raining for two days non-stop.

Have you ever had too much of a good thing? Too much rain and you get a flood. Too much ice cream and you get a stomach ache. Too much coffee and you stay awake most of the night.

We mostly notice things when we have too much or too little of them. Who wants a drought? Do without that morning coffee? Can it ever be good to go for months without ice cream?

I guess that's why Paul's testimony in Philippians 4 of contentment has always challenged me. Being content when there's too much of something, or, when there's too little of something? Quite the test, isn't it?

How do we "pass" these tests of life? By trading in our conditional and limited interests in God for an unconditional and unlimited trust in Him! When we abide in a trust without borders or boundaries we are declaring that God knows what we need and when we need it. I think contentment is in there somewhere!

APRIL

4-6 Titusville, FL (772-563-0430)
8 Alachua Study
13, 20, 27 CCF
29 Ocala Study

MAY

19-22 Ridgecrest, NC
23-25 Dalton, PA (607-625-4612)

JUNE

27-29 Bar Harbor, ME



*We'd like to share with you
that our youngest daughter,*

Rachel, will be marrying

Tadd Roberts on April 25th.

*We ask you to pray for them
as they begin their marriage.*

