

“The Work of God and the Trembling of Man.”

Holiness

The Rev. Ted Wood

October 23, 2015

Thoughts on who accomplishes salvation, sanctification and glorification, and how.

Part 1: The Work of God

“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.” Philippians 2:12-13

1. Bruce’s teachings can be jarring

“Think, Act, Feel.” “Doctrine precedes (and drives) behavior.”

- ✓ In the past, our thinking, our doctrine was shaped by family, church experiences and feelings. **Most were unexamined.**
- ✓ Too often, **the preaching and teaching under which we sat, begins with Man’s Needs** rather than God’s Character.
- ✓ **Prior to coming to Bravemen**, I had heard sermons on how to get saved, how to be a better husband, prayer and Bible heroes, but I had never heard a series on the Attributes of God.

The need to **rethink much of** we previously believed about the Gospel.

2. It all depends on where you start: man’s needs or God’s character and attributes

- a. **Man’s part:** “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling ...”
 - ✓ **Jesus said**, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... ²⁰ teaching them to **observe all that I have commanded** you.” Matthew 28:19-20
 - ✓ The Christian is responsible for doing at least some of the 630 OT commandments and all the NT ca 800+ commandments.
- b. **God’s part:** “it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
- c. **Are they equal parts? Is it “both/and”?**
- d. The conjunction “for” = gar, is from two Gk words: ge ara = “**for, the fact is, namely**” ...
 - i. **What is the fact?** “... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
 - ii. **My working is the result** of God’s working. **Doctrine precedes behavior.**

3. Start with God and his character & attributes.

- a. **God the Creator**
 - i. “In the beginning, **God created** ...” Genesis 1:1
 - ii. “There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, **Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.**” 1 Corinthians 6:8
 - iii. “**All things were made through** him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:3-4
 - iv. “**By (Jesus Christ) all things were created** ... through Him and for Him ... that in everything He might be preeminent.” Colossians 1:16-18

“The Work of God and the Trembling of Man.”

4. We are God’s new creation

- a. **“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17
- b. **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”** Ephesians 2:8-10
- c. **“... called you out of **darkness** into his marvelous **light**.”** 1 Peter 2:9

5. How does God create the new creation; deliver me from darkness to light; save?

- a. **“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again.**’”** John 3:7.
- b. **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again **he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”** John 3:3
- c. **“... you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God ...**”** 1 Peter 1:23

6. What is the extent of the new creation?

- a. **Election & Justification:** was saved
- b. **Sanctification:** am being saved
- c. **Glorification:** will be saved

7. How am I sanctified?

- a. **First and foremost it is a mighty and miraculous work of God,** like the works of election, justification and glorification.
- b. **“I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.”** Philippians 1:6
- c. **“... ²³ Now **may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ **He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.**”** 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24
- d. **“... looking to **Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith ...**”** Hebrews 12:2-3
- e. **“May the God of peace ... ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, **working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,** through Jesus Christ...”** Hebrews 13:20-21
- f. **“By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, **though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.**”** 1 Corinthians 15:10