

Part 2 “The Work of God and The Trembling of Man”

Holiness

Philippians 2:12-13

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Salvation, sanctification and glorification: how and who?

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
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That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
Long my imprisoned spirit lay,

Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Charles Wesley 1738

Part 2: “... the trembling of men.”

“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. **God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility.** Equal parts? It depends on where you start.
2. **Getting first things first. The conjunction “for” = gar = “for, the fact is, namely”; “Verily”.**
 - a. **In Philippians 2:12-13, what is “the fact”?** “... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
 - b. Therefore: “Because God ... works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”, (therefore you) “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
3. **Let's start with God and his character, attributes. God the Creator ...**
 - a. “In the beginning, God created ...” Genesis 1:1
 - b. “All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:3-4; also Colossians 1:16-18.
4. **We are God's new creation:** “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17
5. **How does God create the new creation;** deliver me from darkness to light; save me?
 - a. “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:7.
6. **What is the extent of the new creation?** “This is the will of God, your sanctification.” 1 Thess 4:3
 - a. **In the past: Election & Justification:** I was saved
 - b. **In the present: Sanctification:** I am being saved
 - c. **In the future: Glorification:** I will be saved

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7. How am I sanctified? How is God creating in the present?

- a. “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
- b. **Regeneration leads to salvation.** Ephesians 2:8, 9. “For by grace you have been saved through faith ...” **After the new birth, where do good works fit in?** “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10
- c. “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. “... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to **Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith ...**” Hebrews 12:2-3
- e. **In summary:**
 - i. He who began a good work in you will complete it. Philippians 1
 - ii. May God sanctify you ... He will surely do it. 1 Thessalonians 5
 - iii. Jesus, the Perfecter (finisher) of our faith. Hebrews 12
 - iv. I worked harder, yet not I, but the grace of God. 1 Corinthians 15
 - v. Ezekiel 36:26, 27. “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you ... ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause (make) you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

8. Not “both/and”, but “first, then”:

- a. **God does all the work, just as He did all the work at your election and justification, at one end and your glorification at the other end.**
- b. He is in you and you in him: Union with Christ. “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Col 1:27.
- c. “You are in **Christ Jesus, who became to us** wisdom from God, righteousness and **sanctification** and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” 1 Corinthians 1:30-31
- d. **Union with Christ means God is going to give you a “work out”:**
 - i. “God works in you” Philippians 2
 - ii. “We are his workmanship in Christ Jesus for good works ...” Ephesians 2:10.
- e. **At the same time God is working, His work in you is changing you.**
 - i. “‘**My Father is working until now, and I am working.**’ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because ... he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” John 5:17, 18
 - ii. **The Amazing Union With Christ:** the Spirit of Christ is in us to work on us so that He can work through us to do predestined works.

9. How do we experience that inside-out working of God.

- a. **Apprehension of the truth**
 - i. “With fear and trembling”. 1 Corinthians 2:3. “I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” Also: 2 Cor 7:15; Eph 6:5; Mk 16:8.
- b. **Desire:** in Romans 7, Paul uses the word “desire” six times in six verses.
- c. **Apostolic action:** “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42
- d. **Corrections and disciplines.** Hebrews 12:5-11.
- e. **Always, all the time, you are working out ... with fear and trembling.**
 - i. Work out = katargomai = effect by labor, achieve, work out, bring about, produce, accomplish. “If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” Romans 8:10