

Adult Bible Discovery- October 4, 2020

For Starters:

Like snowflakes and fingerprints, no two Christians are alike. God is working in and through each of us in varied ways and according to a unique blueprint.

What are some of the areas of your life in which you see God working in and through you?

What are the areas of your life in which you have tried to run from God at work in you?

Paul has called the believers in Philippi to put aside their petty differences with one another and look to the example of Christ as their model for how to regard one another. This is firmly in the realm of sanctification, meaning our daily life as a believer, filled with the ups and downs of being a sinner and saint at the same time. This is not about Justification. Paul is not calling the church to a certain code of behavior in order to earn God's approval. We already have God's approval in Christ! As we consider the depths of Jesus' obedience to the Father for our sake, it should compel us to follow his example and to do so without grumbling or arguing. When this happens, God works in and through us to bring his light and grace to the world.

Read Philippians 2:12-18

- *What kind of response should believers have when they consider what Jesus did for them?*
- *Go back through the text and write down all of the verbs Paul uses. What particular actions should believers in Christ seek to be doing?*
- *What is the difference between the biblical command to "work out your salvation" and the misguided attempt to "work for your salvation"?*
- *How can you "rejoice in the Lord always" and also "work out your salvation with fear and trembling"?*
- *How can you avoid the ever-present danger of trying to live an exemplary lie so you will get the attention and admiration of others? How does this text help you in this?*

"We applause-aholics have done it all: dropped names, sung loudly, dressed up to look classy, dressed down to look cool, quoted authors we've never read, spouted Greek we've never studied. For the life of me, I believe Satan trains battalions of demons to whisper one question in our ears: 'What are people thinking of you?'"

"A deadly query. What they think of us matters not. What they think of God matters all. God will not share his glory with another (see Isaiah 42:8). Next time you need a nudge away from the spotlight, remember, 'You are simply one link in a chain...an unimportant link at that.'"

"Don't agree? Take it up with the apostle Paul. 'So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow' (1 Corinthians 3:7)."

"Remember then other messengers God has used? A donkey to speak to Balaam (see Numbers 22:28). A staff turned snake to stir Pharaoh (see Exodus 7:10). He even used stubborn oxen to make a point about reverence and a big fish to make a point about reluctant preachers (see 1 Samuel 6:1-12 and Jonah 1:1-17)."

"God doesn't need you and me to do his work. We are expedient messengers, ambassadors by his kindness, not by our cleverness. It's not about us and it angers him when we think it is."

(From *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado)

Martin Luther once said, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." He also wrote the following, "Faith is a divine work in us that changes us and regenerates us of God (1 John 1:13) and puts to death the old Adam and makes us entirely different in heart, spirit and mind, and all powers and brings with it the Holy Spirit. Oh, it is a living, busy, active, powerful thing that we have in faith so that it is impossible for it not to do good works without ceasing. Nor does it ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has done them and is always engaged in doing them."

- *As you do good works for your neighbor, what are some of the signs that you might have crossed the line from dwelling on what people are thinking of Jesus to what people are thinking of you?*
- *How can God work in and through you in spite of your selfish ambition? (see Isaiah 55:10-11)*
- *Why do you think Paul stresses the importance of doing everything without grumbling or arguing?*
- *What are some of the ways that God is working in you "both to will and to do for His good pleasure"?*

What does the moon do? It generates no light. Apart from the sun, the moon is nothing more than a pockmarked rock. But properly positioned, the moon beams. Let it do what it was made to do, and a clod of dirt becomes a source of inspiration and a symbol of romance. The moon reflects the greater light of the sun. We are called to be like the moon and reflect the Son, in so doing God can work in and through us to bring His light to our neighbors.

Contemporary Christian artist Chris Tomlin has recently released a new album in collaboration with other artists. One track on the album *Chris Tomlin and Friends* is entitled *Be the Moon* (featuring Brett Young & Cassadee Pope) and describes what it means to reflect Christ in all we do. Take some time to listen to this song as a prayer today. You can find the song on most streaming platforms, or you can listen to it here- <https://youtu.be/Sejv8a-vCyc>

Prayer: *Lord help us reflect your amazing grace in everything that we do. Father, we pray that as we serve you that others would see and marvel at you and not at us. We pray that you would work in and through us today and all day. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*