

FOR TO ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN

Philippians 2:12-15 "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence,

- ▶ It is so important to understand that we respond to the Father and not to man with all of the accolades.

Jeremiah 17:5 "Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD."

Psalms 20:6-7 "Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. ⁷Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."

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.

Katergazomai:

1. to perform, accomplish, achieve
2. to work out i.e. to do that from which something results
 - a) of things: bring about, result in
3. to fashion i.e. render one fit for a thing

2 Peter 1:10 "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall."

Isaiah 66:2 "All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

James 2:14-17 MSG "Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off



without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

¹⁸ I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

²¹⁻²⁴ Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God and was set right with God," includes his action. It's that weave of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

²⁵⁻²⁶ The same with Rahab, the Jericho harlot. Wasn't her action in hiding God's spies and helping them escape—that seamless unity of *believing* and *doing*—what counted with God? The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse. Separate faith and works and you get the same thing: a corpse."

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

▶ **1 Timothy 3:3** "...not quarrelsome..."

Psalm 15:1-5 "O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill ² He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; ³ who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor nor takes up a reproach against his friend; ⁴ in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; ⁵ who does not put out his money at



interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.”

¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish

1 Peter 5:3 “Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

Galatians 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Luke 1:6 “And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.”

in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation,”

