



Go for God!

“FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST!”

PHILIPPIANS CH. 2:12-30

~ Paul brings forth three keys “**FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST!**”:

> **KEY #1 - THE WORK OF SALVATION! (v12-16)**

> **KEY #2 - THE WORK OF SERVICE (v17-24)**

> **KEY #3 - THE WORK OF SACRIFICE! (v25-29)**

> **KEY #1 - THE WORK OF SALVATION! (v12-16)**

(v12a) The Gr. verb rendered “work out” means to continually work to bring something to fulfillment or completion. It cannot refer to salvation by works (cf. Rom. 3:21–24; Eph. 2:8, 9), but it does refer to the believer’s responsibility for active pursuit of obedience in the process of sanctification.

(v12b) “with fear and trembling” - The attitude involves a healthy fear of offending God and a righteous awe and respect for Him (Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Is. 66:1, 2).

(v13) “it is God who works in you . . . for His good pleasure” – God is always working in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, producing HOLINESS, bearing FRUIT, leading you into all TRUTH and witnessing CHRIST to all! (John chapters 14 – 16)

(v14-16) “Do ALL things without COMPLAINING and DISPUTING” – Complaining is to say that you are unhappy, uncomfortable, etc., or that you do not like something; whereas, disputing is to argue about (something), to fight in order to take control of (something).

- *Blameless* - Describes a life that cannot be criticized because of sin or evil.

- *Harmless* - which can also be translated “innocent,” describes a life that is pure.

- Noah - “worked out his own salvation with fear & trembling” - Hebrews 11:6,7- *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. (Genesis 6 & 7; Matthew 24:36-42)*

> **KEY #2 - THE WORK OF SERVICE! (v17-24)**

(v17-18) Paul pours himself out for the sake of others through “sacrifice and service!”

(v19-24) Here, Paul describes six solid attributes of his friend and disciple Timothy: (Let us make these attributes ours!)

#1 – To be an encourager - R.E. Thompson writes regarding our relationship with others:

- *Do other people's failures annoy or challenge you?*
- *Do you "use" people, or cultivate people?*
- *Do you direct people, or develop people?*
- *Do you criticize, or encourage?*
- *Do you shun or seek out the person with a special need or problem?*

#2 - To be like-minded, how? Through the WORD OF GOD! Put on the mind of Christ!

#3 – Having sincere care – For the love of God and God's people!

#4 – Putting Jesus first! Amen! - Colossians 3:17 - *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

#5 – To have Proven Character - 1 Timothy 4:12-16 - *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

#6 – Servanthood - "Field Marshall Montgomery said that his war experience taught him that the staff must be the servant of the troops and that a good staff officer must serve his commander while remaining anonymous himself."

> KEY #3 - THE WORK OF SACRIFICE! (v25-29)

- Epaphroditus means "charming", let us look at his character:

#1 – My brother – In sweet fellowship and in the family of God.

#2 - A fellow worker - Fulfilling the Great Commission!

#3 - A fellow soldier – Let us fight the good fight of faith! - Ephesians 6:10-12- *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.)*

- The battle cry: Winston Churchill in WWII declared to the people England regarding the Nazi's:

"We will fight them on the streets.

We will fight them on the beaches. . .

All I offer you is blood and sweat and tears."

#4 - A servant leader – A humble follower of Christ.

#5 - A sacrificial Christian (A Cross trainer) - The work of the Lord was his ambition, even in sickness!

- Jesus said in Luke 9:23-25 - *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"*