

WORKING AND WAITING, WORKING AND WAITING, WORKING AND WAITING

Philippians 1: 1-11 (11-27-05)

INTRO: Working and waiting... does this sound like your life? Yes sir, you say, “story of my life.” I’ve spent my life *working and waiting for God to do something.. reward me you know.* Well, what if you have this whole concept backwards like everything else is in the world economy versus God’s economy? What if the order is not right? What if it is waiting then working? You know, *pray then plan instead of plan then pray.* What if it is not the order, but *who’s assigned* to what? What if HE is doing the work and your waiting on Him? Or what if the working of God is waiting on you? It all sounds so confusing if not too prescriptive. What would happen if there were **such a merging of God and you together in life** that there was this active, dynamic, simultaneous flow resulting in the purpose of God being fulfilled in your life and others? Be careful now that you don’t think for a moment that I am suggesting you are equal partners in this production of life. It’s not even close. Eve fell into big trouble when she decided that being equal with God was a nice goal. Adam fell into it also. The story of the creation of the Philippian Church is an awesome example of how God, in a simple moment in time can change the course of history when people respond to Him. (Paul had no plan at all to end up in Philippi). It is also applicable to your life. How do the major events of your life take place? Well, before you tell me all you did to influence your life, let me ask you this? Did you choose your parents, your home, your siblings or relatives, your neighborhood, your city, county state, or even the state of health you were in when you were born? Did you choose your hair color, your eyes, your IQ etc., etc. Now, before you conclude that you have it made based on these things, or don’t have a chance based on these things, let me suggest that God is constantly creating and planning and moving in your life whether you see it or acknowledge it or not; all to bring you to a place of saying YES LORD, and cooperating with Him. You might say, “well, I have made a lot of choices since I became older.” Okay, without a big argument let me say, within the scope of what was put before you, you may have responded accordingly, BUT, You are not even alive today, outside of the sovereign hand of the Almighty God. You don’t have a next breath outside of being sustained by HIM. He has always been behind the scenes of your life taking what you call CHANCE or CHOICE and turning it into the opportunity for CHANGE! **In God’s economy**, blessings can be beautiful or burdensome, and TRIALS can become trouble or TRANSFORMATIONS. It all pivots on one huge question? Who is pulling this whole thing off? You or Him? Who is the producer and who is the platform?

RELATIONSHIP

JESUS RELATIONSHIP: I want us to examine the first six verses of our text. First off, we are able to relax about this whole thing and live confidently in His plan and production of our lives if we have relationship. God wants to know you so intimately that He sent Jesus to feel, what you feel, live like you lived, and see what you see. *Look at Jesus background.* Born in a barn, parents were on the run to hide Him, the king out to kill Him, adoptive earthly father, rejected by those He loved enough to die for, closest friends ran in His need. Never owned a home, called a devil, accused of insanity, executed for being truthful..and the list goes on. BUT, He had a relationship with the Father that drove Him, kept Him focused, sustained Him and brought Him out on the other side of life with victory over death, hell and the grave!!

YOUR RELATIONSHIP: Your life can only produce lasting things based on your relationship to the Father. Christ died and shed His blood on the cross, that you might know the Father intimately. This isn’t just about heaven or hell, this is about relationship. Eternal Life, according to Jesus, is “That they might know You.” In 1st John 1:9 it says, “if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Romans 8:15 says you have received the Spirit of adoption so that you can call God, “Abba, Father.” He has called you this morning, He has chosen you, "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one

need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.” (John 3:16 The Message)

In Verse 1 of our text, Paul referred to the “saints in Christ Jesus. You may have become a Christian today or fifty years ago and that relationship in Christ, will bring the Scriptures and all other *revelation* of God Himself into being in your life today, if you will let it. This isn’t academics, this is relationship, and that is paramount to revelation.

REVELATION

The whole thrust of this working and waiting theme, built on Verse six (6) in our text. In the Message Bible it reads like this: “*There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.*” Let’s examine this really close. Now this “you” here is the collective you and the individual you. This applies to this church or to each individual. Who has begun this thing? Him, God! This is not your creation, this is your gift. The word **begun** is clear. It is commenced or started. And it means good or **well!** He does things well, and the word work is also **activity**. Any activity that is of Him will work for “good” (Romans 8:28) in your life. The “keep at it” is a wonderful word in the Greek, *epitelio*, meaning “*fulfill further, (or completely), that is, execute; by implication to terminate, undergo: - accomplish, do, finish, (make) (perfect), perform.*”

Right up to the day, age, or period of Jesus Christ. This is fantastic. This means that you didn’t start it, you don’t keep it going, and you don’t finish it.

RESPONSE

But wait, what do you do? Don’t you do anything? That is the difficult thing isn’t it? I am always wanting to move to the place where I must perform, I must be responsible. I worked hard for this I deserve the credit.

1. *Willingness*: Do you know what I can’t find in Jesus? Taking the credit, saying it was my great choices, my hard work. He said things like “I do nothing of my own.. It is the Father who speaks, and in Acts 2:22 “*Men, Israelites! Pay attention to these words! Jesus the Nazarene, a Man having been attested by God among you by miraculous works and wonders and signs which God did **through Him** in your midst.. GOD DID THROUGH HIM!* Do you know what the primary definition states? The word is “**DIA**” and it means the **channel** of an act!! **SO THE RESPONSE IS ABOUT RECEIVING THE ACT OF GOD IN YOU AS A CHANNEL, INSTEAD OF RESISTING IT.** In today’s language this might be stated “*go with the flow.*” That is the flow of God in your life. **YOU CAN CLOSE YOUR EARS AND YOUR EYES** (Acts 28:27). You can choose (active voice) **not to put it together** (suniami Greek [Acts 28:26]), or you can choose healing.

2. *Wait*: Psalms 27:14 says to “*wait on the Lord and be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart. Isaiah 40:31* says: “*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*” **The word wait in the Hebrew is a word “qavah” meaning to bind together, perhaps twisting together. This is not a don’t do a thing wait, this is a be wrapped up in HIM wait.**

RESULTS

What results do you want in your life? Remember in Acts 16:6-10? Paul was prevented twice *by the Holy Spirit* from going into areas he wanted to go. What happened is that Paul then received a vision to go elsewhere, and because of that the gospel was spread throughout all of Europe. What if the things you have been prevented from, are really about the “*epiteleos*” complete fulfillment and accomplishment of God’s purpose in your life. His works can be performed in you, if you do not become absorbed with being the performer, and will be the platform or channel through which HE is allowed to perform in you life.