

“How Then, Will We Live?” Part 3 “When I’ve Done It All!”

Previously on HTWWL... *Unlocking our kingdom potential for the times we are living in!* Local demographics changing! Core moral changes ahead of our nation! Pearl Jam/Target picked up the HB2 cause! Elementary schools becoming hotbed of political/social/sexual changes! WWMilitary muscles flexing! Cyber attacks growing! Suicide rates highest in 30 years! People/young are running scared!

It’s a prime time for the church... a revival time... if we are “prepared to give an account of the hope that is within us!”

Able to deliver because “we set God in the center of our hearts...” Which is what brings us stability in troubled times... “because we’re always ready to give the reason why we live like we do, with the hope that we have...” Requires a little preparation/exercise! ***“And we deliver it with meekness and fear!”***
1Peter 3.15

“Get this mindset in you that was in Jesus who, being God, didn’t live to make a reputation for Himself but to be a servant. As one of us, He humbled Himself and became obedient to God for a lifetime, which is why God highly exalted Him with a name above all others. So, walk out your salvation with fear and trembling for God is working in you to do His will... do what you need to do without complaining to show you are a blameless and genuine follower in a bent and distorted world, illuminating the way!” Phil 2.5-ff

How Then Will We Live? *Humbly... without a “sense of privilege,” like Jesus!* Reminded that we are a privileged people... *freedom*s of salvation, *blessings* of inheritance, *benefits of grace*... because of Jesus! But presumptuous privilege, the trademarks of spoiled children, is ugly and stifling to a revival of God’s kingdom... and Jesus!

Jesus... Didn’t come to be served! Didn’t come to be “seen!” Did great things and never blew His own horn! Didn’t ask others to do anything He didn’t, wouldn’t, do! And He never exercised His rights, privileges, asked for “favors” or special treatment... ***“And don’t you know I could...?”*** Mt 26.53 ***But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled (of His service to mankind)?*** v54

You can think highly of yourself... but you can’t think of yourself as higher than others!

“By the grace of God we are what we are and His grace bestowed on us should not be in vain... or for vanity!” 1Cor 15.10

All life in God begins with Jesus trait of humility – setting aside rights, “privilege” and special treatment to serve mankind!

How Then Will We Live? A Biblical Question... “Which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’? But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable (unmeritable) servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”

Getting Rid of the Elephant... Want to remove the assumption/ suspicion that the parable depicts *God!* That God is somehow insatiable... No matter what you do, it’s not enough and is never good enough

anyway! "Ok, now that I've done all I know how to do, I have to say I am nothing more than an unprofitable servant!" (?????) Is that how we should live?

Does that even sound like God? "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love that you have showed toward His name in that you have ministered to the saints!" **Heb 6.10**

He has a "ridiculous" system of rewards and blessings for those who do His will! Here and now and in eternity! He is not a hard taskmaster... demanding our service without recognition or reward... and it is inconsistent, even evil, to think so!

Asides! "I knew that you were a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow..." And the Lord answered him, *'You wicked and lazy servant; you knew that I reaped where I had not planted and gathered where I did no work...? Cast the unprofitable (unmeritorious) servant out into darkness...'* **Mt 25.24ff**

This parable is not about God, but about us... our attitude... our work ethic and love quotient!

This is about returning from every day's duties without thinking we are done, have done enough, or that we should be rewarded *for the work done so far*...

Though our "rewards" are never truly "earned..." they are freely given, precious gifts, to people who are doing His will to the best of their understanding!

We Should Say...

"What we do and whatever is extra that we do, is nothing at all, it's nothing we shouldn't do for You, anytime!" **Lk17.10** "We cannot but speak of the things we have seen and heard!" **A4.20**

When we are impressed with how good God is, how beautiful, loving, and faithful, we should be positively oppressed to remain silent and inactive!

"Words of Him should be like fire shut up in our bones/cannot hold!" **Jer20.9** "I have not been disobedient to the heavenly vision!" **A26.19** "I have nothing to glory of for necessity is laid on me! Yes! Woe to me if I don't proclaim the gospel!" **1Cor 9.16**

It's about being mindful and dutiful to serve God and His will rather than our own needs and wants... without complaint and without demand for reward!

It's about never saying, "I've been good... I've done right... I've served hard... now give me a break!"

"All is not half enough to give to 'The Lamb That Was Slain' who is worthy to receive the riches of our hearts and lives!" – Clarkson

How Then Will We Live? Humbly... without a "sense of privilege..." and a long line of voluntary, freewill, obedience... like Jesus!