

**"WHAT HAPPENS IN YOU STAYS IN YOU"**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:13**

**INTRODUCTION**

**MOST OF US ARE FAMILIAR WITH A LOCALE THAT ONCE WAS A SMALL DESERT CITY THAT WAS A STOPPING WAYPOINT FOR MILITARY AND ROADSIDE TRAVELERS BETWEEN TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA.**

**THIS CITY IS NOW ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

**THAT PLACE, FOUNDED IN 1905 AND INCORPORATED IN 1911 MEANS "MEADOWS" IN SPANISH IS CALLED LAS VEGAS. LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, OR AS THE LATE REV. DONNELL HORN USED TO CALL IT, "LOST WAGES, NEVADA" HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR VACATION AND RESORT DESTINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.**

**MILLIONS HAVE TRAVELLED TO "SIN CITY." I'VE BEEN THERE!**

**I'VE SEEN THE LAS VEGAS STRIP! I'VE SEEN THE LARGE SHOPPING MALLS!**

**I'VE EATEN DINNER AT THE BUFFET AT WYNN'S RESORT AND HOTEL! I'VE STAYED AT CIRCUS CIRCUS.**

**I'VE SEEN THE SHOWS AND ENTERTAINMENT IN LAS VEGAS! JUST A FEW YEARS AGO THE MAYOR OF LAS VEGAS AUTHORIZED A NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.**

**THAT CAMPAIGN SAID "WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS, STAYS IN VEGAS."**

**IT SUGGESTED IN ITS CATCHY TELEVISION COMMERCIALS AND RADIO COMMERCIALS THAT THINGS COULD HAPPEN IN LAS VEGAS TO YOU THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED OUT OF CHARACTER.**

**EXPOSITION**

**FOR EXAMPLE, THREE WOMEN COME TO LAS VEGAS AND THEY GO TO THE RESTROOM.**

**WHILE IN THE RESTROOM, THE CAMERA SHOWS THAT ONE IS A BLONDE, ONE IS A BRUNETTE, AND ONE IS A REDHEAD.**

**AFTER THEY ADJUST THEIR MAKEUP, ALL THREE BOW THEIR HEADS IN ALMOST A PRAYER-LIKE MOVEMENT, REACH UP TOWARDS HEAVEN, GRAB THEIR HAIR AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE THREE WIGS.**

**THEY TRADE WIGS SO THAT THE BLONDE IS NOW A REDHEAD. THE REDHEAD IS NOW A BRUNETTE. AND THE BRUNETTE IS NOW A BLONDE.**

**THE SCREEN THEN DISPLAYS “WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS, STAYS IN VEGAS.” I’VE COME TO SUGGEST THIS MORNING THAT GOD IS DOING SOME THINGS WITHIN US, TO US, AND FOR US, THAT IS SO PERSONAL AND PROFOUND, NOT ON THE OUTSIDE OF US BUT ON THE INSIDE OF US, NOT VISIBLE BY HUMAN EYES, THAT CANNOT BE CHANGED BY HUMAN HANDS.**

**GOD HAS PERFORMED, GOD IS PERFORMING, AND GOD WILL PERFORM, SOMETHING ON THE INSIDE OF US THAT CANNOT BE ALTERED, CHANGED OR DESTROYED! SOMEBODY SHOULD HAVE SHOUTED RIGHT THERE – GOD HAS HUNG OUT A HIGHWAY SIGN IN OUR SOULS – AND IT SAYS CONSTRUCTION ZONE – GOD AT WORK!**

**I BELIEVE I’M NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THIS PLACE THAT GOD IS DOING SOMETHING WITH! \*WE DON’T TALK LIKE WE USED TO TALK! \*WE DON’T DRINK WHAT WE USED TO DRINK! \*WE DON’T THINK LIKE WE USED TO THINK! \*WE DON’T MOVE LIKE WE USED TO MOVE! \*WE DON’T PROCEED LIKE WE USED TO PROCEED!**

**GOD IS DOING SOMETHING IN OUR LIVES THAT IS IRREVOCABLE AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO HUMAN IDEAS AND**

**OPINIONS.**

**GOD IS WORKING ON THOSE OF US WHO ARE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST – I DIDN'T SAY IN THE CHURCH, BUT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST – HE'S WORKING ON US! I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE PAUL, WHO'S WRITING A LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH, CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS.**

**PAUL – WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON WITHIN ME?**

**\*PAUL – WHY DOESN'T PORNOGRAPHY EXCITE ME ANYMORE?**

**\*PAUL – WHY DOESN'T LYING APPEAL TO ME ANYMORE?**

**\*PAUL – WHY DOESN'T STEAL LEAD MY DAILY AGENDA ANYMORE?**

**\*PAUL – WHY DOESN'T CUSSING FLOW FROM MY LIPS ANYMORE?**

**\*PAUL – WHY DON'T I COME TO CHURCH AND GET QUIET ANYMORE?**

**PAUL SAYS I HAVE THREE THINGS TO SHARE WITH YOU!**

**\*NUMBER ONE, GOD IS WORKING IN ME! \*NUMBER TWO, GOD IS DEVELOPING ME! \*NUMBER THREE, GOD IS USING ME! PAUL SAYS TO US TODAY THAT IF YOU NOTICED THAT YOU'RE NOT WHAT YOU USED TO BE AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF YOUR HUMAN ABILITIES.**

**\*YOU'RE NOT SANCTIFIED BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SO GOOD.**

**\*YOU'RE NOT HOLY BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN STAYING AT HOME AND NOT RUNNING IN THE STREETS.**

**\*NO, YOU'RE NOT WHAT YOU USED TO BE BECAUSE GOD IS WORKING IN YOU. I NEED TO HURRY UP AND SAY THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR ALL OF US.**

**GOD HAS DECIDED, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, TO INVEST OF HIMSELF, HIS RESOURCES, AND HIS TIME TO WORK IN US!**

**PAUL IDENTIFIES QUICKLY THAT IT IS GOD... IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHO GOD IS . . . CAN I TAKE 15 SECONDS AND TELL YOU WHO HE IS?**

- **HE'S ALPHA AND OMEGA**
- **THE BEGINNING AND THE END**

- MY JOY IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE
- A FRIEND WHO STICKS CLOSER THAN A BROTHER
- SHELTER IN THE TIME OF STORM
- HE'S MY WAY MAKER
- HE'S MY JOY
- HE'S MY COMPANY KEEPER
- HE'S MY HEALER

**IT IS GOD, THEOS IN GREEK, THE ONLY TRUE AND LIVING GOD, GOD THE FATHER THE HEAD OF THE TRINITY, CHRIST THE SON OF GOD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR COMFORTER.**

**GOD WHO IS FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, HE IS WORKING IN YOU!**

**HE HAD DECIDED TO CAMP OUT IN YOU, TO HUNKER DOWN IN YOU, TO MOVE IN, AND HAS GONE TO WORK IN YOU RIGHT NOW! THAT WORD WORK OR WORKETH IN GREEK IS "ENERGEO" WHICH IS THE WORD THAT WE GLEAN TO MAKE THE WORD "ENERGY."**

**IT MEANS TO SHOW FORTH, TO WROUGHT, TO BE IN – BUT THE EXCITING PART OF THIS WORD IS HOW IT'S FRAMED IN VOICE, TENSE AND MOOD.**

**THE VOICE IS PRESENT; THE TENSE IS ACTIVE; AND THE MOOD IS PARTICIPLE.**

**THIS MAY NOT SOUND EXCITING YET, BUT WALK WITH ME FOR A MINUTE. PRESENT TENSE : THIS WORD "WORKETH" OR "WORKING" MEANS THAT PRESENT – IT IS A STATEMENT OF FACT! IT'S NOT A STATEMENT OF FACT YESTERDAY OR LAST MONTH, PAUL SAYS IT'S A RIGHT NOW EXPERIENCE. GOD IS WORKING IN US RIGHT NOW! GOD IS WORKING ON YOU RIGHT NOW! GOD IS WORKING ON ME RIGHT NOW! ACTIVE VOICE: THE REASON WHY I KNOW ITS GOD IS BECAUSE IT'S ACTIVE TENSE. THAT MEANS THAT THE SUBJECT DOES THE ACTION. GOD HAS NOT ASSIGNED THAT FUNCTION TO ANGELS OR MEN. GOD HAS NOT ASSIGNED THAT TO PREACHERS OR TEACHERS. GOD HAS ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVE, AND SAID IT'S GOING TO**

**TAKE SOME TIME, BUT I NEED TO WORK ON YOU! GOD HAS SAID, THIS IS MY JOB TO PERFORM. PARTICIPLE MOOD: AND IT'S FINALLY PARTICIPLE MOOD – IT'S NOT JUST A ONETIME FIX. LET'S NOT GET IT TWISTED – WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT SALVATION. SALVATION IS A ONETIME EXPERIENCE. I DON'T NEED TO BE RE-SEAVED. I DON'T NEED TO GET SAVED AGAIN. THAT'S A ONETIME EXPRESSION THAT ESTABLISHES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ME AND GOD. AFTER THE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, GOD CAN AND GOD WILL GO TO WORK ON IN THE INSIDE AND HE'S WORKING ON US! YOU CAN DRIVE BY ANY HOME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IT LOOKS LIKE THE SAME OLD HOUSES DAY BY DAY.**

**YOU MIGHT SEE SOMEONE OUTSIDE, BUT MOST OF THE TIME YOU WON'T.**

**WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE IS THERE IS A WOMAN OR MAN, LIVING IN THAT HOUSE, CLEANING UP THE HOUSE – WIPING DOWN THE WALLS, DUSTING OFF THE LIGHTS, CLEANING THE DRAPES, VACUUMING THE FLOOR – YOU CAN'T SEE IT, BUT THE HOUSE IS BEING CLEANED FROM THE INSIDE. AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT THE HOUSE, THIS OLD EARTHEN HOUSE, WHICH WILL SOON LAY INTO THE COUCH OF NATURE'S NIGHT, IS BEING CLEANED ON THE INSIDE?**

**YES, GOD IS AT WORK! HE'S ON THE INSIDE – SCRUBBING FLOORS, DUSTING MANTLES, MOPPING FLOORS, CLEANING THE CARPET, WIPING THE WALLS, REPAIRING, PAINTING, DISINFECTING, HE'S DOING SOMETHING ON THE INSIDE! NOT ONLY IS GOD AT WORK, GOD IS DOING SOMETHING ELSE!**

**LOOK AT THE TEXT, IT IS GOD WHO WORKS ON YOU TO WILL. ALLOW ME THIS EXPRESSION – TO WILL ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PURPOSE.**

**I WAS UNSURE ABOUT THIS TEXT UNTIL I READ IT IN GREEK. PAUL USES A WORD, "THELEO" WHICH CARRIES THE CONCEPT OF WOULD DO, WILL DO.**

**IT ALSO DEFINES LIKE THIS: TO LOVE, OR TO LIKE TO DO A THING. GOD IS NOT JUST WORKING ON THE INSIDE OF ME – GOD IS DEVELOPING ME. AS A RESULT, I’M DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE – A HOLY ATTITUDE.**

**YES, AN ATTITUDE TO LOVE THE THINGS THAT HE LOVES. TO ALIGN MY WILL WITH HIS WILL.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, SINCE I’VE COME TO CHRIST, I’M STARTING TO LIKE AND LOVE THE THINGS OF GOD.**

**THE CLARK SISTERS SING A SONG THAT SAYS, “I LIKE LIVING THIS KIND OF LIFE.”**

**IF WE TELL THE TRUTH THIS MORNING, WE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE LIVING THIS KIND OF LIFE.**

**IT WAS FOREIGN TO US. IT WAS STRANGE TO US. WE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE PRAISING GOD.**

**WE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE SINGING HIS PRAISE!**

**WE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE PREACHING!**

**WE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO TREAT OUR ENEMIES WITH LOVE!**

**WE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK AND LIKE IT!**

**ILLUSTRATION**

**WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IN CAIRO, GEORGIA, WE DIDN’T HAVE A LOT OF THINGS OR MONEY.**

**AND WE DIDN’T HAVE A LOT OF FINANCES TO SPEND ON GOURMET SEVEN COURSE MEALS.**

**EVERY NOW AND THEN, WE HAD TO EAT SOME THINGS THAT THEY DON’T SERVE AT DENNY’S – PIG FEET, CHITLINS, NECK BONES, RABBIT, SQUIRREL, TRIPE,**

**CATFISH, POSSUM, COON, OX TAILS, HOG HEAD CHEESE, OKRA, AND OTHER THINGS THAT DIDN'T LOOK GOOD AT FIRST TO ME.**

**BECAUSE IT WAS SERVED AT THE TABLE AND MOMMA DIDN'T TAKE INDIVIDUAL ORDERS FOR DINNER – WE HAD TO EAT WHATEVER SHE PUT ON THE TABLE, WE LEARNED HOW TO LIKE IT OR GO TO BED HUNGRY.**

**I WILL ADMIT, TODAY I LIKE CATFISH, I LIKE OX TAILS IN GRAVY WITH VEGETABLES, I DIDN'T LIKE IT AT FIRST – BUT NOW, I'VE GROWN TO LOVE IT!WHEN I FIRST CAME TO JESUS, I DIDN'T LOVE PRAISING GOD. I DIDN'T GET INTO SHOUTING FOR JOY.**

**I DIDN'T APPRECIATE PASTORS AND PREACHERS.**

**I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOME FOLK WOULD SHOUT LOUD. BUT NOW, AFTER ALL THE LORD HAS BROUGHT ME THROUGH, AND ALL OF THE WAYS HE'S MADE – I LOVE TO PRAISE HIM!**

**GOD WILL CHANGE YOUR TASTES! SOMEBODY HERE DON'T ENJOY WHAT YOU USE TO. BECAUSE GOD HAS REMOVED THE TASTE OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.**

**GETTING DRUNK ON HENNESSEY AND BLACK VELVET DOESN'T APPEAL TO ME ANYMORE.**

**GETTING HIGH AND WAKING UP IN A FOG, DOESN'T TURN ME ON ANYMORE.  
BUT LIFTING UP MY HANDS IS MY THING NOW!**

**TELLING THE LORD THANK YOU IS MY JOY NOW!**

**SAYING GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME IS MY PASSION NOW!YES, GOD IS WORKING IN ME. YES, GOD IS DEVELOPING ME. AND FINALLY, GOD IS USING ME.**

**LOOK AT THE TEXT AGAIN: “FOR IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU BOTH TO WILL AND TO DO FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE.”**

**AGAIN, GOD IS WORKING IN ME AND GOD IS CHANGING ME.**

**GOD HAS A REASON FOR WORKING IN ME AND CHANGING ME – AND IT’S CRYSTAL CLEAR IN THIS TEXT. HE’S DOING ALL OF THESE THINGS IN MY LIFE, IN MY SOUL, WITHIN THE WALLS OF FLESH – FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE! THE TRANSLATION OF THE ORIGINAL WORD, “EUDOKIA” (YOO-DOK-EE-AH) IS BROKEN INTO ENGLISH AS THE PHRASE “GOOD PLEASURE.”**

**IT MEANS TO DELIGHT OR PLEASURE OR TO BRING SATISFACTION, TO ACT WELL, THINK GOOD, DESIRE GOOD – BUT THERE IS A CAVEAT.**

**THAT CAVEAT IS THAT EUDOKIA IS ONLY GOOD PLEASURE WHEN ASSOCIATED WITH GOD AND IT CAN BE RENDERED AS EVIL PLEASURE WHEN USED OF MAN. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BROTHER PASTOR?**

**THE TEXT INFERS THAT THE PERSPECTIVE OF PLEASURE SHOULD BE THAT GOD WOULD BE PLEASED BY OUR ACTIONS AND OUR ACTIONS TOWARD GOD SHOULD NOT BE USED TO PLEASE OURSELVES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A HUSBAND CAN DO SOMETHING TO PLEASE HIS WIFE, AND IT’S NOT FOR HIS BENEFIT.**

**WHEN A MAN TAKES OUT THE GARBAGE, HE CAN SAY HE’S DOING IT FOR HIS WIFE, BUT IF THE GARBAGE STINKS, HE GAINS THE BENEFIT BY THE GARBAGE BEING GONE.**

**IF THAT SAME MAN GETS HOME BEFORE HIS WIFE, DRAWS HIS WIFE A WARM BUBBLE BATH, PUTS CANDLES AROUND THE TUB, A GLASS OF SPARKLING APPLE JUICE, AND TURNS ON SOME SOFT “LUTHER” MUSIC – THE OBJECTIVE IS NOT THAT HE WOULD GET ANYTHING IN RETURN, BUT THAT HIS WIFE WOULD RECEIVE SATISFACTION.**

**\*WHEN WE LIFT UP HOLY HANDS – IT’S NOT SPIRITUAL**

**AEROBICS FOR OURSELVES – IT’S SO THAT GOD WILL GET THE GLORY.\*WHEN WE GIVE GOD PRAISE – IT’S NOT SO THAT WE CAN DRAW ATTENTION TO OURSELVES – IT’S SO THAT GOD WILL GET THE GLORY.**

**\*WHEN WE GIVE GOD OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS – IT’S NOT SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR CHURCH POSITIONS – IT’S SO THAT GOD WILL GET THE GLORY.\*I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I WANT GOD, WHO HAS BEEN DOING GREAT THINGS IN MY LIFE, TO RECEIVE THE GLORY!**

**\*AS I WORK FOR HIM AND LIVE FOR HIM, IT BRINGS GOOD PLEASURE TO GOD!\*WHEN I WORSHIP HIM – IT BRINGS GOOD PLEASURE TO GOD!**

**\*WHEN I READ THE WORD – IT BRINGS GOOD PLEASURE TO GOD!**

**\*WHEN I LOVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS – IT BRINGS GOOD PLEASURE TO GOD!**

#### **CONCLUSION**

**I NEED TO CLOSE THIS MESSAGE, BUT DON’T YOU WANT TO MAKE GOD HAPPY?**

**\*IT MAKES GOD HAPPY WHEN WE GIVE HIM PRAISE!**

**\*IT MAKES GOD HAPPY WHEN WE LIFT OUR VOICES!**

**\*IT MAKES GOD HAPPY WHEN WE READ HIS WORD!**

**\*IT MAKES GOD HAPPY WHEN WE TELL OF HIS GOODNESS!**

**\*IT MAKES GOD HAPPY WHEN WE HELP THE UNFORTUNATE!**

**\*IT MAKES GOD HAPPY WHEN WE LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST! I’M GLAD THAT I’VE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE GOD HAPPY!**

**ONE WEDNESDAY, NOT ONLY DID I MAKE HIM HAPPY, BUT HE EXPERIENCED JOY.**

**"I CAME TO JESUS AS I WAS, WEARY, WOUNDED AND SAD, AND I FOUND IN HIM A RESTING PLACE, AND HE HAS MADE ME GLAD."**

**AND THE BIBLE SAYS, THERE IS JOY IN THE MIDST OF THE ANGELS.**

**ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION, GOD – IS ON THE THRONE IN THE MIDST OF THE ANGELS.**

**WHEN I CAME TO JESUS, GOD EXPERIENCED EUDOKIA – GREAT PLEASURE – AND HE CELEBRATED.**

**I CAME TO JESUS BECAUSE OF ALL THAT HE HAD DONE.  
\*HE WAS BORN IN A MANGER.**

**\*HE DIED ON A TREE.**

**\*HE ROSE FROM A GRAVE.**

**\*HE LEFT HERE ON A CLOUD.**

**\*HE GAVE ME THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY HEART!**

**WHAT GOD HAS PLACED IN ME IS SO VALUABLE THAT IT'S GOING TO STAY IN ME.**

**I'M SEALED UNTIL THE VERY DAY OF REDEMPTION!**

**THE DEVIL CAN'T TAKE IT!**

**THIS JOY THAT I HAVE....**

**THIS PEACE I HAVE.....**

**THIS LOVE I HAVE....**

**TURN TO YOUR NEIGHBOR, AND SAY, "WHAT HAPPENS IN ME WILL STAY IN ME."**