**one thing – wk4 – One Life**

**A few years ago when the Titan opened up… my experience – we often look at our spiritual journeys and think roller coasters… we want off**

**Paul in prison– God was using it to pave the way for others – a lot of time to think and write… missed his friends and the road.**

**Today – the wild ride and process of change and temptation**

**Paul himself I sure faced temptation – beat up, locked up - the temptation to give up – writing to a church close to giving up**

**One the darkest places of his life… and he write about – Joy!**

**Last week – walking in unity together (what it is and is not) = humility**

**Today we are going to start here - then rewind… Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – (you do what is right) not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence (800m away how are you going to respond to Jesus)**

**For some of you, you’re good in here… but step out of here… whoa! Stand back - our words, actions, attitudes…**

**We often compartmentalize our lives – diff words, actions, music, attitude – than with me or others. Paul is challenging them / us – be authentic – be one person - One life – not two, or three compartments.**

**How do we do that? Right here - Philippians 2:12 Therefore… continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, (Jesus died for us to go to heaven – but many stop there. There is more than just going to heaven… we are to mature!) 13 for it is (the precursor) God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.**

Two Parts to maturity – one life - The Ride of Your Life

* **A Work in (v13) – God works in you!**

**Through the Holy Spirit - convict and mature (sanctification) When we respond to the HS w/ action steps – we are walking in the Spirit. (Gal 5)**

* **A work out (v12) – You work it (walk it) out!**

**You have a role to play in your growth. God speaks – we obey. We do this in Fear & trembling – in humility (teachable attitude) and in seriousness - don’t blow this off.**

**Let’s take a look at that first part –** What God works in us

**Let’s rewind to where we left off last week - Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

***Attitude: phroneo* *(fron-eh'-o)* to exercise the mind, set affection on, be single-minded.**

1. **God works on our attitudes – he changes our mindset**

**Many times, our doctrine in Jesus might be right, but our attitude towards others (and our mindset) in Jesus is wrong.**

**What is your mindset / attitude today? Are you ready to be challenged, are you teachable, or are you knit picking everything? Are coming to serve or to just take? When God works in us – our attitude changes – it becomes less about me – and becomes more about us.**

**Some of you need a HS attitude adjustment. HOW?**

**Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. (What follows is one of the greatest declarations of who Jesus is in scripture)**

* + **Notice the Cost – true change**

**Phil 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (Controversial word found only once in the bible - harpagmos (har-pag-mos') to plunder, rob, rape) 7 but made himself nothing,**

**Jesus is the very nature of God in the flesh, yet never used his authority to abuse or take advantage. His mindset = humility.**

**7b …taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (The incarnation – God w/ meat) 8 And being found in appearance as a man, (The cost – he became a man for the rest of eternity – sits on the throne in the flesh for us!) he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! (The cost- he allowed himself as a man, to be arrested, stripped, tortured, and murdered – and felt every blow! For us! This was the work of God for you!!!)**

**The cost was priceless – nothing short of everything.**

**Phil 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

**Our response to Jesus – we humbly we give everything**

* + **Notice the reward -**

**Phil 2:9-11 -Therefore God exalted Him (The exaltation) to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, (a day will come - everyone will bow their knee to Jesus. You can do it now or later) to the glory of God the Father.**

**The 2nd person of the trinity became a man – humbly emptied himself – became a servant – experienced every beating and nail - and now because of that humility - his name is above every name!**

**His reward was priceless – humility for a crown**

**Phil 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

**Our response to Jesus – we humbly look to our eternal hope**

**We too are exalted in humility - James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. / Luke 14:11 - For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. / 1 Peter 5:6 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that in due time He may exalt you. / Luke 9:48 For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.**

**Different philosophies of life: Greeks, taught be wise, know yourself. / Romans, be strong and discipline yourself. / Education says be resourceful, expand yourself. / Psychology says be confident, assert yourself. / Materialism says be possessive, serve yourself. / Pride says be superior, promote yourself. / Religion says be good, conform yourself. But the Jesus Christ says, "Humble yourself!”**

**A Great Paradox in God’s plan - Greatness is never a measure of self-promotion, but always of self-abandonment.**

**In this life we humble ourselves - knowing we strive for an eternal reward – but we may not see until this life is over.**

**The path to greatness and incredibly profound relationships in God’s eyes - is found on a road called “humility and Servant-hood”**

**We look to the cross to see the attitude of humility - God thru Jesus work on the cross, works in us a new attitude.**

**Phil 2:12 Therefore… continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is (the precursor) God who works in you to will… (desires)**

1. **God works on our desires – he changes our “want to”**

**God takes our heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh – transforms us from the inside out. (It’s an inside job) -**

**As our will gets aligned with God’s will - we begin to desire different things. My “want to” changes: I want to go to church - want to stop smoking pot - want to stop getting drunk - want to live pure - want to read this Bible - want to talk to God. I don’t want my will, I want God’s!**

**If you struggle with temptation – what is at the core of your will?**

**Do you see sin God’s way or do you deep inside accept it as okay?**

**Getting drunk, immorality, anger, addiction, homosexuality - deep inside, what do you really think? Is it okay? What is God’s will?**

**God changes your desires - This a good way to know if someone is a Christian – What are your deepest desires? If it’s not to know Jesus and desire his will - then maybe you need a new heart.**

**Phil 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act…**

1. **He changes our actions**

**Once our will changes it affects the way we act – God works in us – then thru us…**

**Like the two pedals on a bike – God works it in – you walk it out – God convicts – you repent – God teaches – you obey – (the initiate / and the respond)**

**Because He works in you changes – now we work it out…**

* **God gives you a new nature – so live according to it**
* **God gives you new desires – so feed them**
* **God gives you new gifts – so serve others with them**
* **God gives you a new power – so live through it**
* **Our conflicted desires are temptation**

**We don’t go out and get plastered because… our desires change and then our action changed - this is the best life there is!**

**This isn’t behavior modification. God does not want your behavior, he wants your heart & will - and this – in turn – will then affect our behavior.**

**Some of you here are trying to stop certain things… The issues are not the fruit – but the root / The issue is not the effects – but the cause / It is always a heart issue.**

**Phil 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act (Why does God do this? For this -) according to his good purpose. (God takes pleasure working in you – to see your life transformed – he loves it – he wants to?)**

**God starts before we do. God initiates the change and gives us the power to change. Why? For God’s good purpose!**

1. **He gives you a new purpose.**

**In Christ we have a new sense of direction and meaning – a greater sense of who we are and why we are alive for this brief time on earth.**

**The closer you get to God the greater you understand that we are alive for a greater purpose, greater mission, greater assignment.**

**But - there are things that get in the way – things that distract and detract – things we have to work out. Philippians 2:12 Therefore… continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling… (Things we need to take seriously, or they will detract us) 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.**

**God works in – we work out - 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life.**

What we work out - our Role:

**“Do everything (do what God is directing you to do) without complaining or arguing…**

* **Stop complaining about it**

**God where are you – what are you doing – where are your promises? I thought you were good???**

**When you think of Bible grumblers who do you think of? The Israelites in the desert – 40 yrs that could have been a week – I hate the food – the water – the climate – the environment – I’m tired – your mean God – they complained until they died there – just like some of you might.**

**When we grumble – we often miss what God is saying and doing – and end up there longer – struggling longer.**

* **Stop making excuses**

**But you don’t see it my way – there are special circumstances – but this is different – that won’t work for me – I’ve tried that…**

**Phil 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,**

**Paul is saying, don’t gripe about it, don’t make excuses - Do it!**

**15 so that you may become blameless and pure, (innocent) Ask yourself -**

**In that situation, that temptation – are you blameless and innocent?**

**God remove the lust – I can’t stop!! Well, are you blameless and innocent? No – well that is the part you need to work on –**

**God, I think I am about to fall into an affair - help? Are you blameless? Well, I guess we should not have gone to dinner…**

* **Follow through on what you know is right**

**God is good – he is trying to you mature you – he is pushing down his peddle but you don’t do anything…**

* **Remember it is God working in you**

**God gives you all you need to live for him – the HS is doing it.**

**Give yourself the grace and patience - God is not giving up on you, don’t give up on yourself. This is a process.**

* **God is not finished with me yet – Thank God!**

**15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life… (this world has gone haywire, they are watching you – shine! To be honest the perception of most Christians is that we are self-centered fakes – or at best just kooky) And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. (When I stand before God – I can point to you – that you did not give up!)**

**A fear of good pastors is that this is all in vain – that you won’t get it – all those hours overtime – and no ones changed – I will run and labor for you – allow God to work it in you - I want to stand before God and boast of you - We will all one day stand before Jesus, will this be a good day for you?**

**17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. (If things go bad for me I want to look back at your life and know it was worth it) 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.**

**Roller coaster – the ride of your life – don’t try to operate the ride – stay on the vehicle at all times – share the experience with others – and don’t forget - raise your hands!**