

JOHN 14:12-14
February 11, 1989
ROME GEORGIA
MAY 29, 2015

Subject: Christ's promise of our ability to serve Him and do the works of the Father.

" One can strain until one is exhausted at trying to lift a trunk and still not receive credit for doing any work by scientific standards. On the other hand, if one lifts a feather one inch off the ground, you have worked. Scientifically speaking, "**work**" **includes two factors - force and movement**. It is measured in foot-pounds - **lifting one pound one foot is the basic unit**. Unless the trunk is moved, there is no work accomplished, regardless of the exertion involved." *tann #7477*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "WORK" FOR GOD? IN OUR PASSAGE THIS MORNING, WE SEE AN EXAMPLE OF DOING GOD'S WORK AND WE HAVE AN EXHORTATION TO DO GOD'S WORK:

I. THE WORK OF THE SON

II. THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN (Jn. 1:12 KJV = sons)

Christ's attitude of service was one of obedience to the Father in all that He did. **READ 14:10-12**

WHAT DID JESUS MEAN WHEN HE SAID ". . . ***GREATER WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO***. . ."

FIRST WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT "**WORK**" THAT CHRIST DID:

TO DO THE WORK OF GOD - WE MUST BE WILLING TO DRINK FROM THE "CUP" THAT GOD HAS FOR US. CF. **MARK 14:35-6** WITH **JOHN 18:11**.

Mark 14:35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and PRAYED that, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, THE HOUR MIGHT PASS FROM HIM. v. **36**. And he said, Abba, Father, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE unto thee; **TAKE AWAY THIS CUP FROM ME:** nevertheless **NOT WHAT I WILL, BUT WHAT THOU WILT**.

Within a few short hours = cf. **John 18:11**.

John 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, **Put up thy sword into the sheath: THE CUP WHICH MY FATHER HATH GIVEN ME, SHALL I NOT DRINK IT?**

God's "cup" for your life may be not be your "cup of tea". Not everything that befalls us in this life is "pleasant" -

- ❖ You may pray with all earnestness,
- ❖ you may pray late into the night and into the early morning hours.
- ❖ You may rend your soul and even - as in the case of Jesus - sweat great drops of blood.

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

BUT GOD'S "CUP" FOR YOUR LIFE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED!

DOES THIS MEAN THAT GOD DOES NOT HEAR OUR PRAYERS?

DID GOD HEAR THE PRAYER OF JESUS in the garden? ABSOLUTELY!

HEB.5:7-8

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, **AND WAS HEARD IN THAT HE FEARED;**"

GOD HEARD HIM - AND GOD ANSWERED HIM -

WHAT WAS GOD'S ANSWER?

HEB. 5:8 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he **suffered;**"

THIS WAS NOT A SUDDEN BURST OF OBEDIENCE - IT WAS THE RESULT OF A LIFE PATTERN OF OBEDIENCE.

Ps. 40:8 (regarded as a **Psalm of the Messiah**) "Then said I, Lo, I am come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, **I delight to do thy will, o my God;** yea thy law is written in my heart.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; **because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath SENT ME.**

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine **own will**, but **the will of him that SENT ME.**

AND WHAT IS THIS WILL?

John 6:39 **And this is the Father's will** which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should **lose nothing**, but should **raise** it up again at the last day.

The will of the father for the Son is THE REDEMPTION AND ULTIMATE RESURRECTION OF MANKIND!

AS HE FACED THE AGONY OF GETHSEMANE

John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: **BUT FOR THIS CAUSE CAME I UNTO THIS HOUR.**

John 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: **THE CUP WHICH MY FATHER HATH GIVEN ME, SHALL I NOT DRINK IT?**

AS HE HAD EARLIER PROCALIMED - John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, **MY MEAT IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM that SENT ME, AND TO FINISH HIS WORK.**

JESUS HAD A WORK TO DO - THAT WORK WAS THE REDEMPTION OF MANKIND - THIS WAS HIS GOAL IN LIFE - THIS WAS THE OBJECTIVE IN THE RACE HE RAN. AND IT WAS TO THIS GOAL - THIS "CUP" THAT JESUS STROVE. HE INTENDED TO "FINISH" THE WORK WHICH GOD HAD GIVEN HIM.

THE PROPHETS THROUGH THE AGES SPOKE OF MESSIAH - THE GREATEST OF THEM BEING JOHN THE BAPTIST - YET ALL THAT THEY SPOKE TAKES A DISTANT SECOND TO WHAT CHRIST DID IN OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER!

John 5:36 But I have **GREATER WITNESS THAN THAT OF JOHN**: (*the baptist*) for the **WORKS WHICH THE FATHER HATH GIVEN ME TO FINISH**, (ergo salvation) the same **works** that I do, **bear witness of me**, that the Father hath sent me.

IMPORTANT NOTE: see how the "**WORKS**" **bear witness**. We tend to think of "witnessing" as our words - and this it is. Our witness may be with our words, yet it is our **WORKS** which validate our **WITNESS**.

BOTH THE WORDS AND THE WORKS OF JESUS WERE FROM THE FATHER - AND THEY WERE BOTH DIRECTED TO THE SALVATION OF LOST MANKIND.

John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, **MY DOCTRINE** (*my teaching, my word*) **IS NOT MINE**, but his that sent me.

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, **When ye have lifted up the Son of man**, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I **DO NOTHING OF MYSELF**; but as my Father hath taught me, I **SPEAK** these things.

John 12:46 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but **TO SAVE THE WORLD**. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my **words**, hath one that judgeth him: the **word** that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 12:50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

ALL THAT JESUS SAID AND ALL THAT JESUS DID WAS DONE WITH ONE OBJECTIVE - OBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF THE FATHER. HE SOUGHT DAILY CONFIRMATION AND COMFORT FROM GOD AS HE PURSUED THE WORK HE CAME TO FINISH

II. THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN

THE GREATER WORKS THAT WE WILL DO

"First, understand that the greater works are not necessarily greater in power – but in extent. We have no recorded miracle done by the apostles or early church fathers that were any greater than the miracles performed by Jesus in his earthly ministry.

When the Lord spoke of His followers performing greater works, He was referring to the extent of the spiritual miracle of salvation. Jesus never preached outside of Palestine, yet his followers would spread the gospel throughout the world. Jesus had a very limited outreach to the Gentiles – who incidentally are the bulk of the population of the world – whereas Peter and Paul would minister to the world of the Gentiles. Jesus drew hundreds – the apostle – tens of thousands." *Loosely adapted from John MacArthur commentary, p. 126.*

Matthew 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**

WHAT, then, ARE THE "WORKS" THAT WE ARE TO DO IN THIS AGE. IS IT OUR TASK TO REARRANGE THE LANDSCAPE WITH OUR FAITH? ARE WE TO BE DOING MIRACLES TO DEMONSTRATE TO OTHERS THAT GOD IS WITH US?

JUST WHAT IS THE WORK OF GOD IN THIS AGE?

John 6:28 Then said they unto him, **What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?**

John 6:29 JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, **THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD, THAT YE BELIEVE ON HIM WHOM HE HATH SENT.**

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and **THEY TOOK KNOWLEDGE OF THEM, THAT THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS.**

Acts 4:33 And with **great power** gave the apostles **WITNESS OF THE RESURRECTION** of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace** was upon them all.

Paul Romans 15:17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. **For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me**, to make the Gentiles obedient, **BY WORD AND DEED**, v. 19 Through **mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God**; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have **FULLY PREACHED** the gospel of Christ.

OUR ENABLEMENT :

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this **spake he of the Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the **Holy Ghost** was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the **Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

OUR WORKS WILL EITHER VALIDATE - - OR VIOLATE OUR WORDS!

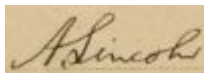
During the Civil War, the union troops were under the command of General George B. McClellan. *Although McClellan was meticulous in his planning and preparations, he did not do well as a military tactician. He was a **dithering democrat** and ran for president as such in 1864.*

The general was conducting a waiting campaign. He was so afraid of making mistakes, that little headway was evident. President Lincoln thereupon wrote him this letter. (bear in mind that "Lincoln's letters are known for their great clarity and economy of words, he never using two where one would suffice.")

"MY DEAR McClellan:

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO USE THE ARMY, I SHOULD LIKE TO BORROW IT FOR A WHILE.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,



A. LINCOLN. *From Paul Tan #7464.*

In the **Hebrew** grammar there are only **two tenses**:

"perfect" or "imperfect" which are equal to "completed" or "incomplete"!

What is most important is whether a thing gets done, not when it is done!

Has God called you to His Service – Have you yielded your Will to His Will for your life?

What are you doing **TODAY** to **further** the work of God?

When the Lord Commissioned Peter in chapter 21 – to what does He call him. Does he say Peter, I want you to establish the Holy Roman Catholic Church that will grow into an empire. I want you to have cathedrals and basilicas erected to honor you. I want you to wear a pointy hat and have people bow at your feet and beg for your blessing. - NO – He simply commands **"Feed My Sheep"**

If God called for someone today to raise someone from the dead on a live television broadcast – there would be many who would appear for the job! But when He calls men for simple, unrecognized anonymous obedience to His will in their daily lives – the crowd of those seeking this job is much smaller.

[John Wesley: Evangelist and Founder of Methodism](#) preached 40,000 sermons traveled 250,000 mi - and he never owned a Lear Jet.

10

"When I have money, I get rid of it quickly, lest it find a way into my heart." — *John Wesley*

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out." — *John Wesley*