

Monday, 5 October 2015

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

More instructions from Paul, in one of his usual terse and pithy statements. I have to remind myself frequently that Paul assumes that I am listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and accepting that guidance unquestioningly. It is impossible for me, in my own strength, to admit to selfish ambition or conceit and humble, why I'm the *sine qua non*, the epitome of humility. Hah!

Tuesday, 6 October 2015

Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

I just caught that Paul does not say, "do not look to your own interests." He cautions that I am to keep my own interests of concern and in balance with the needs of others. This has to be taken as a corollary to the prior verse, that true humility demands that others are more significant than myself, but I need to be aware of my own needs. I am not called to work myself to exhaustion and physical deterioration, I am not called to sacrifice commitments to my family without consideration of their needs and my responsibilities as husband and father. Isn't this consistent with Paul's counsel of moderation in all things?

Wednesday, 7 October 2015

Philippians 2:5-8

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

A servant serves--got that, John? A servant does things for others, right? Does so with humility, not reminding everyone that he is their 'umble and ob'ent servant, OK? Remember the One who humbled Himself to the point of death even though He is part of the Godhead. Praise the Lord, He is risen and stands at the right hand of God to intercede for me and equip me to serve.

Thursday, 8 October 2015

Philippians 2:12-13

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.***

It's probably easy to misconstrue this passage but it does not mean that I have to accomplish my salvation. I think a good understanding comes when I realize that Paul is advising that I am to apply my salvation, filled with awe that God has and is working in me for His own, His very own good pleasure. And Ephesians 2:10 spells out very clearly that He has a honey-do list for me.

Friday, 9 October 2015

Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Now, this do **all** things without grumbling; don't I usually behave as if Paul said do **most** things without grumbling? I wonder if there is no better way to demonstrate that I am a new man in Christ Jesus than to do **all** things without grumbling. I need to remember that grumbling demonstrates to the world that I am still self centered, not Christ centered.

Saturday, 10 October 2015

Philippians 2:14

Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

Rather like Paul is throwing in an "Oh, by the way the icing on the cake is no grumbling or arguing." He could have just said "Do all gracefully and with love" but no, he had to make sure I understand. There is no wiggle room--do it this way, John.

Lord's Day, 11 October 2015

Psalm 119:86

All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

There is protection in the Word, a covering against the onslaughts of the Evil One. But I must hide the Word in my heart to provide that protection, that shield. Only through You and the Word is it possible to resist the devil.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



October 5-11, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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Pastor John Nunnikhoven
The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318
Essex Junction, VT 05452