

Work Out Your Vision

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now 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 do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13)

This is a famous story: ***“Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons; Shem, Ham and Japheth.”*** At the time of Noah, ***“the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, “The end of all men flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold I will destroy them with the earth”.***

God was not pleased with human wrong doings, for the earth was filled with idolatry, immorality, strife, envy, covetousness, and all ungodly deeds. People strived to possess money, power and fame but they were away from doing the will of God. Noah walked with God by trusting and obeying Him as Lord over his life and the life of his family. But the rest of the people were walking in the opposite direction, indulged to fleshly desires and deceitful intent, endeavoring against the will of the Lord and no trust or faith in God. ***“And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. And the Lord asked Noah, “Build yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.”*** The Lord had spoken to Noah to build an ark where they would be kept safe while God would destroy the earth by flood. God promised Him that he and his family would be saved but Noah was to build the ark that the Lord asked Him to do.

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” For us we have received the promise of God to have eternal life and to live with God forever as we believed in His Son Jesus who died for us on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day and is now on the right hand of God the Father, until the time that Jesus will come again to take us with Him to heaven we have to work hard to do His will and to follow Him all the days of our life. Just as Noah was righteous and had faith in the word of God and obedient to do all what He commanded Him in building the ark that would secure them from the coming flood. That was a noble work and to do the job Noah needed to be decided and committed to finish the project that God envisioned to him.

1. Give time to God: Noah was 500 years when he started building the ark and he finished it when he was 600 years. Therefore big portion of Noah's life was given to God. Likewise we need to give more time to assume

direction and to serve God. ***“For we His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)***

2. Give your resources to God: In doing the life-saving project, the ark, it cost Noah choice woods, pitch and other materials needed for building. For sure Noah used his resources that originally God had given him to do the good work of the Lord. He spent for the ark and for the animals and birds and the food that the Lord asked Him to collect and put inside the ark. ***“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.” (2nd Corinthians 9:7-8).***

3. Give effort to God: Noah, for 100 years all his concern was to do the will of God. Day and night he was thinking about that and about the day when the flood would come. He loved his work and certainly he gave all effort to do that vision that God gave him. ***“Therefore not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)*** Are we sincere to think always how to present our best effort to God?

4. Live as stranger: Noah, when he built the ark there was no rain and no water on the ground. He was odd or idiot in the eyes of the people around Him. He was ridiculed, rejected and mocked while he was telling the people about God's promise and instruction. Noah suffered from His own generation while he was preaching to them about God. ***“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)*** We experience the same suffering today as we try to share the Good News to others. We are scorned and threatened but we should have the faith in God, ***“for our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:20)***

My dear and beloved: Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon to judge the whole world. This message is a challenge to us to follow the good example of Noah who obeyed God and led His family in the way of righteousness.

My Prayer: *“Father God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus.”* *Forgive me my sins. I want to do your will, and I want to give You my time, effort and my resources, and to serve You all the days of my life. I want to tell all the people about You, and I want to lead my family to You and to the right way until You come again my Lord Jesus.”* Amen.