

Grace Mail

I'm at the grocery store the other day and as I am checking out there was an issue with one of my items. It was inconvenient, but in reality it was a little thing. To my shame, I reacted poorly. I got a little upset and spoke unkindly to the checker. This interaction has haunted me because that's not who I want to be. That's not who Christ died to make me. I haven't seen that checker since, but if I do I plan to apologize.

As I have reviewed that encounter and chastised myself for my poor response, a verse of Scripture has come to mind. This verse gives us a very important Biblical truth.

I Am A Work In Progress – Philippians 2:13

“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

This verse ties in perfectly with Paul's statement earlier in Philippians that the one who began a good work in us will complete it (1:6). What we must understand is that God is at work.

God Is At Work

This verse begins with these words, “It is God who works in you.” Throughout the New Testament we are reminded that salvation brings transformation. This transformation is not a product of human effort or achievement. Transformation in the life of the Christian is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

God is working in each of our lives to make us like Christ. Every Christian is a work in progress. That work is intentional. God has a purpose for what He is doing.

God Has A Purpose

God is working to “will and do.” The idea presented by these two words is that God has a goal in mind and He powerfully acts to accomplish that goal. This means that nothing in our lives is accidental. God is using all circumstances and situations to shape us, mold us, and fashion us.

He has a purpose, He has a design, and He is working to accomplish that in you and me. We are works in progress, moving toward a goal. That goal is determined by God.

God Determines The Outcome

He is working to accomplish His good pleasure. God does not work in our lives to make them how we think they should be. God is working to achieve His purpose. However, make no mistake; what pleases Him will be best for us.

I am a work in progress, and so are you. As unfinished products, we are going to have ugly spots for the master craftsman to remove.

As God works in us for His pleasure and glory may we submit to His design.