

**In-N-Out****I. Slide1 Announce:**

- A. Slide2,3 Tony: Children's. Baby Bottle. [H.S. - Tony announcement]
- B. Slide4 Pray At the Pole: National Day or prayer Thurs 12-12:30pm. @ Murr City Hall.

**II. Slide5,6 Intro: In-N-Out** (no not that In-n-Out)

- A. Some have *a genius for compressing a minimum of thought into a maximum of words*.<sup>1</sup> Paul on the other hand was a word-smith at dipping into an ocean of God-thoughts & then drawing out a small bucket of succinct wisdom.

**III. Slide7 WORK OUT (12-18)**

- A. Slide8a WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION (14a) *mature to perfection*
- B. You have always obeyed - is *obedience* imp to our Christian faith? It's the *evidence* of it.
- C. Well So here it is, it says we must work hard to earn our Salvation right? **NO!**
  - 1. It doesn't say work **for your own salvation** but work **out**...
  - 2. We must read the next verse (He must 1st **work in** you **b4** you can **work out**)
    - a) Remember salvation is talked about *past,present,/future*: Past, saved from sins Penalty. Present, saved from sins Power. Future, 1 day saved from sins Presence.
      - (1) *For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.* Rom.13:11
      - b) He's addressing Christians (they're already saved). *The is future salv* (ie.1:6)
- D. Work out - work on to the finish (LKGNT). Or, *carry out your own salvation* (Vincent). Or, *In-n-Out* that's what *salvations* all about :)
  - 1. It's an imperative/a command. It emphasizes *obedience* must be *intentional* & *purposeful* in our lives.
  - 2. Slide8b The big idea: that *salvation, once received, must be put into practice through obedience. Continue pursuing God's transformative work in your life.*
- E. Slide9 Illust 1: You inherited a *Silver Mine*. Will that *Silver* work its way out of the mine? No, you have to *work it out* to enjoy its benefits.

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<sup>1</sup> Winston Churchill

- F. **Slide10 Illust 2: You go to the doctor.** The doctor looks at you, gives you an exam, and explains you have problems. So he gives you a diagnosis and says you need surgery. He takes you into the surgical room, performs an operation. After the operation you wake up in recovery. He says you're going to need **rehab** and **medication**.
1. **So effectively, the doctors done at all. He's given you the diagnosis, the operation, the meds and the rehab schedule.** At this point **you** need to **work it out**. **You** need to show up for **rehab**. **You** need to go through the **exercises**. **You** need to take your **medications** and **follow orders**. "So there must be a **cooperation** with the doctors operation."
- a) (nlt) *Work hard to show the results of your salvation.* (msg) *Be energetic in your life of salvation*
2. **Now think spiritually.** **God** has done all the work, **He** is the one who brings salvation, **but** it takes energy to grow as a believer. If you're going to **grow** you can't just **let go and let God**. You have to *get in the race, get in the game*.
- G. **Slide11 Illust 3: Moving walkways in airports/Flat escalators/aka Skywalk/Travellator.** You *can* stand, walk, or run, **but** its intent is that you **walk** on it. *You put in the effort, walking, while it helps you move faster & farther.* So the combo of *my walking & the walkway propelling me*. It's my *working* w/a greater power that enabled me to reach my goal. Working + cooperating.
- H. **Work in you - God's transforming presence empowers believers to live in faithful obedience to His will.**
- I. **With fear & trembling?** Sounds so OT. Yes a *reverence & awe* before God.
1. Lightfoot, **a nervous & trembling anxiety to do right.**
- J. **Slide12 Formula: Personal Obedience + Divine Empowerment = His Good Pleasure**
- K. **Slide13a NO COMPLAINING OR DISPUTING (14)**
- L. Bad attitude can manifest itself a couple ways: *Complaining & Disputing*
1. Expressions of *discontent & arguing* lead to a spirit of **division** w/in a community of believers. **We must** abandon these to promote **unity**.
- M. **Complaining** - grumbling, *low-toned discontented mutterings*. (Passive Fight Talk/counseling)
1. **Story:** everyone hates a complainer. A man decided to join a monastery & 1 of the rules of the group was that you were only allowed to speak **2 words** every

10 years. At the end of 10 years he said, **Bad food!** 10 more years went by and he said, **Hard bed!** Finally, on his 30th anniversary with the brothers, he thundered, **I quit!** And the priest in charge responded, "You might as well. All you do is **complain anyway.**"

- N. Here's a good question, **Which does God hear?** *When you say grace before your meal, thanking him for the food?* Or when you say *this wasn't cooked long enough, right after it?*
- O. **Have YOU been complaining?** Around the office? At home? At bible studies? At the coffee shop? With a group of friends? With certain friends?
1. **Slide13b** Erwin W. Lutzer, *Complaining about our lot in life might seem quite innocent in itself, but God takes it personally.*
- P. **Slide14a Disputing** - arguing w/others, stirring up doubt & suspicions; it's skeptical questioning & criticism. It refers to the *intellectual rebellion against God.* (Lightfoot)
1. It's those who *mountain-climb over mole-hills.*
  2. *Murmuring and complaining unfits the soul for duty.*
- Q. The children of Israel were constantly **murmuring & complaining** when they should have been **trusting & praising.**
1. Many of them **never** reached the Promise land of *spiritual victory & blessing.*
  2. Still **today**, grumblers & complainers are **never victorious** Christians.
  3. These activities (grumbling & complaining) are unworthy of Christ's servants, & they have a negatively contagious effect among a body of Christians.
- R. **Slide14b** Because *toxic thinking, leads to noxious talking, which leads to negative behavior.*
- S. **Slide15 HOPES OF BECOMING** (15) *vs.14 was neg - vs.15 the pos*
- T. **Blameless** - *A purity of life* that is undeniable & inescapable, a character free from defect.
- U. **Harmless** - Unmixed, unadulterated (used of wine or milk...not mixed w/water).
1. It is also translated *Innocence, or inexperienced in evil.*
- V. **W/o fault** - Free from blemish (also used for **Jesus** & *sacrificial animals*).
- W. **Slide16 SHINE** (15) *lights that stand out like stars in the midst of a dark world*

1. Paul *plagiarized* Daniel *Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.* 12:3
- X. *Don't expect God to use you as a lighthouse somewhere else, if He can't use you as a candle where you are.*
- Y. **Your choice:** You can burn up your energy grumbling/disputing, **or** shining as lights.
- Z. (15) msg, *Carry the light-giving Message into the night.*
1. Lights are intended for **guidance**. Think **flashlight**. We are to help those around us who are in the dark.
  2. Lights are also used for **warning**. Think **Lighthouse**. Signaling those caught in this worlds fog, to see the rocks.
- AA. **Slide17a** **But** things are getting *spiritually darker* in our day!...what then?
1. Well, **what happens when it starts getting dark in our city?** *The darker it gets hundreds of street lights around our city click on, dispelling the darkness.*
  2. **We have some unfair laws in our state, & more coming our way...what do we do?** Well we know there is **fight or flight**...but may I add... **Slide17b shine!**
    - a) **Slide17c Reflect God's character through your conduct and reveal the transformative power of the gospel.**
- BB. **Slide18a HOLD FAST** (16)
- CC. **Nobody** wants to look back on their life & think it was a *wasted effort*.
- DD. **Holding fast the word of life** - All life is **valuable**, **but** not all life is **equal**.
1. **There is vegetable life** (which is above mere *matter*).
  2. **There is animal life** (which is above *vegetable* life).
  3. **There is human life** (which is above *animal* life).
  4. **There is spiritual life** (which is superior to *human* life).
    - a) **Slide18b** This is the *word of life that gives eternal life*. [It is a *dying souls* only remedy]
- EE. Paul gives a **dual image** here:
1. **Run in vain** - Like an Athlete. [**like** the runner who trains & trains, **then** pulls a hamstring right before the race, all that running was futile]
  2. **Labored in vain** - Like a Field Worker.

a) After the exhausting work of tilling the ground & sowing the seeds,...torrential rains come & rip up the field, the seeds float to the surface...all for not.

3. Paul says, I don't want to end that way.

FF.Slide19a POUR OUT (17)

GG.A drink offering, usually a cup of wine, was poured out on the ground to honor deity.

1. Paul is again referring to the prospect of **martyrdom** which he faces, & thinks of himself, *his life's blood*, as a libation poured forth to God.
2. Paul says even if his ministry results in **death**, it's worth it for him.
3. Often a drink offering *might be poured over another sacrifice* (or beside it) to **complete** the sacrifice.
  - a) Slide19b So, Paul says, *If my life's blood is to be poured out, let it be poured out on the sacrifice that your faith offers to God.*

HH.Are you willing to *pour out your life blood* as a libation on the sacrifice of the faith of others?

1. Or do you say, *no not just yet, I want to choose my sacrifice*. I want to choose the scenery around my own sacrifice. I want to have the right kind of people watching me and saying, *Well done*.
2. What if **God** chooses for you to *be a door-mat under other people's feet?* Or, wants to teach you *how to be abased?* Are you ready to be offered up like that? Are you ready to be just *a drop in a bucket, or hopelessly insignificant* in the worlds eyes? Are you willing to spend and be spent; not seeking to be served unto, but to serve?
3. *Some saints cannot do menial work and remain saints, because it is beneath their dignity.* Chambers, O. (1986). My utmost for his highest

II. Paul will now paints us **2 quick pen-portraits**, 2 sketches he adds to his art gallery of friends...

#### IV. Slide20a **TIMOTHY (19-24)**

A. There are too many **believers** *that* are *not workers*.

1. Zeal w/o knowledge is bad; but knowledge w/o zeal is worse.
  2. W/o workers the cause of Christ would drag to a full-stop.
- B. There is 1 friend of Paul's he mentioned more than any of the others (about 24 x's).
- C. Paul commends Tim for 3 reasons:
1. Like-minded - or, equal-souled; same-souled as i.e. Jon & David.
  2. Sincerely Cares - Genuine concern. Speaks of his *inner character*.
  3. Proven Character - approval after being tested.
    - a) Slide20b J.H. Jowett said of character, *The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.*
  4. You get Timothy...you get me, was Paul's point.

#### V. Slide21a EPAPHRODITUS (25-30) *the best failure?*

- A. We've had some good Examples so far:
1. 1st was Jesus (but some say He's hard to relate to...He's God)
  2. 2nd was Paul (but he was an Apostle)
  3. 3rd was Timothy (but he's a Pastor)
  4. Well then, here's a layman...*Epaphroditus*.
    - a) A brother; a worker; a soldier; a messenger; & a minister.
    - b) Yet he became deathly sick. God healed him. Paul is sending him back home.
- B. Both in P.I. & Haitian jails, family or friends must take care of you. (*food, clothes, toiletries*)
1. The Situation: The Philippian church sent Epaphroditus to stay w/Paul, but now he needs to go back early.
    - a) Will they call him a quitter?...Not if Paul can silence any criticism.
- C. Slide21b So was he the most successful failure in ministry? Not every ministry you do is *successful*
1. So, Philippi church gets money together, gets a volunteer, sends him all the way to Rome. He gets sick. Now sent back. Think 1st century honor/shame culture. Embarrassed their gift arrived damaged/broken. Now Paul has to return his patched up gift back to sender. So Paul gives him the highest praise.
- D. (30) Not regarding his life - To *risk*; to expose oneself to danger [*paraboleuomai*]

1. Slide21c In the *post-apostolic church* there was a group called *Parabolani* (the *riskers*, those who gambled by exposing themselves to danger) They ministered to the sick & imprisoned. They *risked* their lives by nursing the sick & burying the dead.
  - a) *Epaphroditus* was the forerunner of the *Parabolani*.
  - b) **What's our purpose here?** ...it's called *Living Beyond...ME*.
    - (1) Risk taking is not *living reckless lives*, but being aware of the consequences, moving past fear, stepping out of my comfort zone, & then making a conscious effort to move forward anyways.
    - (2) If you *take no risk...you're not alive*.