

THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST

I. Any old bush will do!

A. Paul ain't so special. Phil.2:12,13

What does Paul say about his presence with the philippians and their walk with the Lord?

B. Work on YOUR Salvation!

What is the exhortation?

The same God working through Paul is at work in you!

How is it to be done? Why?

God is ready to work through any one of His children who depend on Him!

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II. The principle illustrated: Moises' mistake.

Acts 7:18-22

A. Looking in the wrong direction. Ex.2:11.12

What does Moses see that determines his action?

Before taking action what did Moses do?

What does this tell you about what drove his action?

As we often do, Moses in this instance, was more "man-conscious" than "God-conscious"!

Never be determined by others more than by God!

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B.Misunderstood

-Ex.2:13,14

How would you describe the Hebrew's response to Moses' engagement of him?

-Acts 7:24,25

We may have a sense of God's calling, but we must look to the right source to fulfill it!

What should be the only thing that drives a Christian to do whatever?

"You are not called upon to commit yourself to a need or a task...you are called upon to commit yourself to God"
Ian Thomas

Activity is a miserable substitute for consecration to God!

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C.Exile (Ex.2:14,15).

What happens when the Hebrew says this to Moses?

“When Moses tried to tackle the job, he could not bury one egyptian succesfully...when God tacked the job, He buried the whole lot of them in the Red Sea! That is how competent God is to deal with his own business”

Ian Thomas

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III. Moses turning point and ours.

A.The right Question. Ex.3:2,3

Why does Moses go to see the bush?

“All God demands of a man is his availability; to be what man was created to be, the human vehicle of the divine life, inhabited by God for God...the church admires and seeks to emulate the example of the mighty, but so seldom takes the trouble”to turn aside and see” the reason why. You read the lives of men like Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, D.L.Moody,etc..men whose lives have made spiritual history. You would like to be like them and do the things they did, and yet maybe you have never taken the trouble to find out why they were what they were, or how it was it was they did what they did.. They were men who came to the end of themselves and discovered that they were apart from God is nothing”. Ian Thomas

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B. It's not the bush and it's not you! Phil.2:12,13

How is that realization that there was nothing
"marvelous" about the bush instructive to us?

When it is God Who is working through you
whatever He wants to do can happen and you
will Never burn out!

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God had something to say to Moses, and I think it must've been something like this: "Moses, you have done a wise thing in making intelligent inquiry, for you thought this was a very remarkable bush..You thought there must be something wonderful and unique, that it could burn and burn and burn..and yet not burn itself out. But you are wrong!

Do you see that bush over there? That scruffy, scraggy looking thing, that bush would have done! Do you see this beautiful looking bush, so shapely and fine, this bush would have done! For you see, Moses, any old bush will do – if only God is in the bush! The trouble with you, Moses, is this: 40 years ago, learned in all wisdom of the Egyptians, mighty in word and deed, you admired your own foliage! You thought you were some bush! But you burned yourself out in 24h, and you have been a heap of ashes for 40 years! If this bush that you have admired were depending upon its own substance to sustain the flame, it too would burn itself in 24h; it too would be a heap of ashes like you. But it is not **the bush** that sustain the flame, **it is God** in the bush;and **any old bush will do!**" Ian Thomas

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The God to the Scriptures works through you as you depend on Him!

“If you are born again, all you need is what you have, and what you have is what He is!

He does not give you strength, He is your strength!
He does not give you victory, He is your victory..every day can be the glorious fulfillment of the divine purpose.” Ian Thomas

When you wonder if Jesus can live through you remember:”any old bush will do”!