

Introduction: Our expectations powerfully shape...

- Our relationships
- Our responses

Key: Our personal history is paramount in forming our expectations.

Two critical questions

1. What can we expect from God?
2. What does God expect from us?

Remember: Our _____ always shapes our expectations, and historically people have answered these two questions very differently.

Church history: Two views concerning God's expectations

J. CALVIN

Sovereignty

Predestination

"It's God who's at work"

"Whatever will be, will be"

Eternally secure

"Let go, and let God"

J. ARMINUS

Responsibility

Free will

"Work out your salvation"

Choices have consequences

Eternally uncertain

"Let's go and let's get with it!"

God's Word rejects both extremes and hold God's sovereignty and man's responsibility in "biblical tension" and balance

Man's responsibility

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

Philippians 2:12

God's sovereignty

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

How do we “work out” what God has “worked in”?

The command: Be a _____ servant!

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing,

Philippians 2:14

The purpose: Be a _____ servant!

¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation,

Philippians 2:15a

The result: Be a _____ servant!

in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life

Philippians 2:15b-16a

The motive: Be a _____ servant!

in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 16b-18

Discussion Questions:

1. What conscious or unconscious expectations have you had of God and His role in your life?
2. What conscious or unconscious expectations have you believed God has of you?
3. What is God's part in our ongoing transformation to become like Jesus? What's our part?
4. Where do you see growth and progress in "working out" what God has "worked in" your life?
5. Where do you need to focus your effort and energy to allow Jesus' life to be manifested "in" and "through" you?

☐ Attitude?

☐ Speech?

☐ Godliness?

☐ Authenticity?

☐ Boldness?
6. Check 1 or 2 above and share what next steps would help you grow and/or what help you might need from others.