**DIY**

***God’s Do It Yourselfers***

When it comes to handyman projects around the house I usually look to the handywoman at my house. If Benita’s dream when we married was to now have a Tim “The Toolman” Taylor (aka Tim Allen of the old Home Improvement TV show) she was in for a nightmare. She has learned that when it comes to fixing things around the home that I am all thumbs. Have you ever heard the joke about “how many preachers does it take to screw in a lightbulb?” Answer: Four. One to hold the bulb, three to turn the ladder. I’m the one holding the bulb.

Home improvement TV shows have exploded ever since Bob Vila started the craze back in 1979 with the still-running *This Old House*. Some of you might dream as you watch Chip and Joanna Gaines on *Fixer Upper*, or maybe you like those twins, Drew and Jonathan Scott, on *Property Brothers*. It’s fun watching a house go through renovations and restorations by very talented DIY’ers. But, as for my DIY talent, I can only sing with the Everly Brothers: “dream, dream, dream… all I have to do is dream.”

But, strange as it might seem, I actually love walking through those big home improvement box stores and looking at all the tools as I dream of one day being a Mr. Handyman. My heart thumps a little faster as I walk into a Home Depot and begin to repeat their slogan: “More Saving, More Doing.” I have a Lowe’s right down the street and as I enter the front door I mimic their slogan, “Let’s Do It Together.” Some have a mid-life crisis, but I am having an end-life crisis as I near 70 years old and still have to tell my maiden-in-distress who asks me to fix a leaky faucet, “Dear, call a plumber.”

We can’t all be Do-It-Yourselfers. But when it comes to renovating our broken lives we can, and must, be DIY’ers. Every one of us who has come of age has sinned and must therefore DO something about it. We must all become DIY’ers if we are going to fix our broken relationship with God. While many religious teachers bark loud and long about how God must do all the work of fixing us through His grace and mercy, that is like me lying on the couch dreaming that faucet would miraculously stop dripping. Yes, God has lovingly extended His grace to fix my broken life when I was helpless. I’ll thankfully quote Romans 5:6-9 until the day I die or Christ returns:

*“6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

But is that to say that I have nothing to do with my own salvation? Those who claim we are not saved by works are self-deceived at best, or false teachers at worst.

God has always, from the dawn of time to the present hour, demanded we be people of action. Man was never allowed to be lazy or slothful, but to ever be busy. When tossed out of the Garden he was told, “*In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground*” (Gen. 3:19). If Adam didn’t work, Adam didn’t eat (2 Thess. 3:10). The same is true of our salvation. Alongside God’s saving grace we must be DIY’ers. Like Jesus we must be about our Father’s business (Lk. 2:49).

Read these DIY verses:

“What must I **do** to be saved?” (Acts 16:30)

“Men and brethren, what shall we **do**?” (Acts 2:37)

“What must I **do** to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25; 18:18)

“So I said, ‘What shall I **do** Lord?” (Acts 22:10)

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, **do** good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matt. 5:44)

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, **do** also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12)

“You are My friends if you **do** whatever I command you.” (John 15:14)

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do** good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

“But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves… But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a **doer** of the work, this one will be blessed in what he **does**” (Jam. 1:22-25).

And the beat goes on. When it comes to our salvation we must be do’ers, not just hear’ers and say’ers. To say I love God without doing what He says will only result in damnation, not salvation. Don’t believe me? Then believe Jesus:

*44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as* ***you did not do*** *it to one of the least of these,* ***you did not do*** *it to Me.’ 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment* (Matt. 25:44-46).

When it comes to home improvement projects I have to sadly admit I am not a DIY’er, I’m a DIAL’er (“Hello, Mr. Vila, can you fix this hole in the wall I made when I tried to hang a picture with my hammer?”). But when it comes to self-improvement for my soul, God expects me to “***work*** *out your own salvation with fear and trembling …* ***Do*** *all things without complaining and disputing*…” (Phil. 2:12-15).

Yes, God is the project manager of my soul’s renovation, but I am the laborer who obeys His work order to complete the job. “*For we are* ***His workmanship****, created in Christ Jesus* ***for good works****, which God prepared beforehand that* ***we should walk in them***.” (Eph. 2:10). – Rick