

## **WEEK FIVE: DOES GOD ONLY HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES**

**Statement..this week we consider how we participate in the knowing and doing of God's will. We can't be idle and expect his will to happen. To understand our role properly, there is a deeply imbedded attitude that we must address: WE ONLY GET WHAT WE DESERVE IN LIFE. The view has inspired a saying that many people regard as a bible verse, "God helps those who help themselves. How or when have you heard it used/ Have you ever used it? How does it reflect your thinking?"**

**WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION...we must ever let faith be an EXCUSE not to take personal responsibility. God may WATCH OVER US but he doesn't STAND OVER US. Doing his will involves our effort. Jesus wondered if Disciples would ever grow up, be responsible. In Romans Paul says In fear/trembling, work out your salvation. Working "for" salvation is heresy; working "out" salvation is key to growth. We can only work out what we already have. Salvation is a God's free gift; we already possess all that we need for life.**

**PASSING THE BUCK... we are becoming a "society of buck passers" where we shift the blame; where we conceal wrongs; where no one seems to take responsibility for anything. We rationalize our behavior, excuse our indifference. The bible is filled with PAGES OF ALIBIS: the stories of people trying to PASS THE BUCK. God would give them an ASSIGNMENT, and they'd try to beg off or make excuses.**

**WHY THE WORLD IS AS IT IS...we have a role in God's will. One answer as to why there is so much pain in the world: we sit on our hands. The world is as it is because many Christians have stopped serving. We scream, "Do something, God" and heaven declares, "I am waiting on you". God will not reveal his will without our cooperation. We see the world go from bad to worse and wonder why. We want things to improve but we expect others to do it. This half-truth "God helps those who help themselves" kills our incentive. We have talents that we haven't used and gifts that we have never shared. God wants to use us for his purposes.**