



Thursday Thought

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Kudzu

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Verse for the week: Philippians 2:12b (NLT) “Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.”

I have a stream next to my house but we only own property to the middle of the stream. The stream acts as the property line. When we purchased the property the stream was overgrown with vines, brush, and other unknown vegetation. We wanted to enjoy the view of it without all the junk so I began to clear out our side of the stream. I asked permission to clear out the neighbors' side too, but they were concerned about erosion so requested I leave their side alone. It's been about a year since I've cleared it and every two or three months I weed trim the area again. It takes much less time than when I started, and what I've noticed is that instead of a bunch of brush and vines, the grass is filling in. This is great because it's helping to keep the hill along our side of the stream from eroding. However, the other side of the stream... well let's just say it doesn't look as nice as ours. Now I've noticed Kudzu growing on their side. Kudzu was taken from China and introduced to the United States in 1876 as a method for controlling soil erosion, and has since become an aggressively invasive species. Kudzu may be good for erosion but the plant climbs over trees or shrubs and grows so rapidly that it kills them by heavy shading. I'm not a big fan of kudzu or the other brush growing on the other side of the stream. So what's the point to all of this? Too often we think that if we just keep things the way they are that we will be okay. but we don't realize that the stuff we are ignoring could be killing us and doing just the opposite of what we hope. Just like my hillside next to my stream needs regular maintenance to keep it looking nice and to prevent it from erosion so our spiritual lives require regular maintenance. **Psalm 1:2 (MSG) says, “Instead you thrill to God's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night.”** To do this requires work! Rarely going to church, rarely reading the Bible, and praying is a sure way to see our spiritual lives erode.

Question to ask yourself: What are you ignoring in your life that is eroding your relationship with God?