

The Kingdom Coin

[Object – large made up coin. On one side: ‘Everything to do as God’s servants’. On the other side: ‘Nothing to do. God in Jesus has done everything.’]

P1 (holding the coin). Have a look at this beauty. It’s a kingdom of God coin, freshly minted.

P2 It is a beauty! What are the words on the coin?

P1 It says: ‘Everything to do as God’s servants’. That’s so true isn’t it? God wants us to press in to him every day. He wants us to constantly turn away from our sin and selfishness. He wants us to daily pick up our cross and follow Jesus. He wants us to always reach out with his love to the world. There really is everything for us to do as God’s servants!

P2 Great. So what does the other side of the coin say?

P1 What?

P2 The other side of the coin. What does the other side say?

P1 Oh, of course, the other side. I didn’t even think there was another side. (turns coin over) The other side says: ‘Nothing to do, God in Jesus has done everything.’ What? Everything to do. Nothing to do. Everything to do. Nothing to do... One of these sides must be wrong. This has to be a misprint.

P2 There is no misprint. Neither of these sides are wrong. Both sides are correct. This is a kingdom coin remember.

P1 How can I make sense of this?

P2 God in Jesus has done everything for our salvation. He sent his Son to die on the cross for our sin. He sent his Spirit into our hearts. He has brought us to faith. He has adopted us as his children. God has done what we couldn’t do. And it’s all done. We are saved. We are his children. We have life with God forever. It’s all done and dusted. Complete. Nothing for us to do. Nothing we could do.

But now that God has given us new life as his people, he calls us to live that new life as his servants. In that sense there is everything to do. There’s nothing to do, and there’s everything to do, and we need to always hold on to both those truths. When we see ‘There’s everything to do’, we also need to see ‘There’s nothing to do’, and when we see ‘There’s nothing to do’, we also need to see ‘There’s everything to do.’ They are... two sides of the same coin.

P1 Wow Ok.

P2 If we only see ‘There’s nothing to do’ we can become complacent and lazy, and fail to grow as God’s people. If we only see ‘There’s everything to do’ we can either get caught up in pride ‘Look how much I’m doing’, or we can get caught up in fear. ‘Am I doing enough? ‘Did I do that well enough?’ ‘Perhaps God’s unhappy with me’. ‘I’m scared.’ But God is so pleased to give us the kingdom, he’s so pleased to claim us as his sons and daughters, and by his Spirit he will lead us in the doing he has for us. So, it’s always crucial that we see both sides: God has done everything – that’s always true – ‘Thank you God!’, and, there’s everything to do – that’s always true – ‘Show me and empower me Lord God’.

P1 I get what you are saying, but it’s also kind of doing my head in as well.

P2 Just keep holding on to that coin. God will sort your head out.

P1 leaves, muttering combinations of ‘everything to do; nothing to do.’

P2 I think he’s getting the hang of it.