

## VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: *Katergazomai*

*katergazomai* - “work out”

present - Descriptive; indicates what is now going on. Philippian believers are currently involved in carrying out the action of the verb.

middle - Dynamic; emphasizes the part taken by the subjects in the action of the verb; Philippian believers are involved in a process which results in historical impact.

imperative - Permission; the command complies with the personal desires of the subject. The Philippian believers want to comply with the command; therefore, they have a mental attitude of genuine humility.

We are going to translate this word “cultivate.” But the reasoning behind this is going to take a while but I promise it will reveal much. I made this discovery while doing work on the etymology of: *katergazomai katergazomai*.

### I. The Etymology of *Katergazomai*

#### Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. “etymology”

*Documenting the history of a word by tracing its development since its earliest recorded occurrence in the language where it is found.*

Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides were the most famous of Athens’ first classical dramatists in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

Sophocles was the first to use the word extensively in his dramas. His application was in the sense of overcoming all opposition—to subdue.

The Koine Greek changes the meaning slightly: to accomplish or bring about something when in the presence of danger.

The origin of the word can be traced by consulting:

**Liddell, Henry G. and Robert Scott. A Greek-English Lexicon. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1992; p. 924b:**

*katergazomai*: to effect by labor; achieve; earn, gain by labor, acquire; achieve one’s object, be successful; to make an end of; finish.

*To overpower, to subdue, to conquer.*

*To produce, to manufacture, to bring under cultivation; till, cultivate land; to work up for use; chewing or digestion.*

Aeschylus uses *katergazomai* in this latter sense in his drama, Agamemnon. The Herald, speaking of Paris, whom Agamemnon defeated in the Trojan War, says: “... *he hath harvested The total ruin of his father's house.*”

The word “*harvested*” is *katergazomai*, and is used by Aeschylus to dramatize how Paris reaped what he sowed when he kidnapped Helen, wife of Sparta’s King Menelaus. The fall of Troy was the harvest, or *katergazomai*, he reaped due to that decision.

At this point we need to review a few quotes from several references cited earlier in our study of morality and integrity. We will pull the first two from:

**Kirk, Russell. *America's British Culture*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 1993. p. 1, 2.**

**Page 1:**

*"Our English word culture is taken from the Latin word cultus, which to the Romans signified ... tilling the soil ..."*

**Page 2:**

*"The principle dictionaries of nine decades ago offered diverse definitions of the word--the agricultural, the biological, the bacteriological, and others; but the common apprehension of culture ran much like this: 'The result of mental cultivation, or the state of being cultivated; refinement or enlightenment; learning and taste.'"*

*"... personal achievement of high standards in manners, taste, and knowledge."*

**Lukacs, John. "To Hell With Culture." *Chronicles*. Sept., 1994, p. 16.**

*"'Culture', in English, meant cultivation. For a long time it was inseparable from agriculture; it was applied metaphorically to the cultivation of minds. 'Civilize,' in English, appears first in 1601: 'to make civil; to bring out of a state of barbarism; to instruct in the arts of life; to enlighten and refine.'"*

In addition to these already cited, I bring to your attention this entry from:

**Kohl, Herbert. *From Archetype to Zeitgeist*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1992, p. 135.**

*"The word culture which comes from the Latin, has a number of meanings, the primary of which are to settle, inhabit, till the soil, cultivate crops and domestic animals, and protect or defend."*

## **I. The Development of a Biblical Allegory**

The first step in cultivating land in order to produce a crop is to plow the field. This prepares the soil to receive the implanted seed.

You cannot sow seed upon unplowed soil and expect to reap a large harvest. The soil must be suitably prepared to receive the seed.

Plowing disturbs the status quo. Although almost any soil is capable of receiving seed and producing a crop, it cannot do so unless it is properly prepared.

In agriculture, the plow prepares the land to receive the seed at which point cultivation begins.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica gives this basic information on the subject of soil cultivation: *soil cultivation*.

**Vol. 7 of Encyclopaedia Britannica. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., p. 905:**

*Soil is obviously the basic factor in the cultivation of all plants. Soil consists of particles, mainly mineral. In the pore spaces between the particles, both soil water containing dissolved salts and air circulate. This air contains more carbon dioxide and less oxygen than the atmosphere.*

*For plant roots, this pore space into which they must penetrate and from which they obtain much of their nourishment is very important.*

*Maximum return can be obtained only from soil that contains an ample supply of the elements necessary for plant growth, combined with sufficient moisture to enable them to be dissolved and then absorbed through the plant hairs. The three main elements required for plant growth are nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, which are taken up by the plant in the form of salts.*

*Watering of newly placed plants and of all plants during periods of drought is an essential gardening chore. Proper (i.e., deep and thorough) watering can result in greatly improved growth. Water is essential in itself, but it also makes minerals available to plants in solution, the only form usable by plants.*

*Practically all plants have a definite figure of tolerance to cold, below which temperature they are killed. The simplest form of protection for a plant is a wrapping to keep warmer air around it.*

*Pruning, which consists of restricting plants to a desired shape, is one of the most important of horticultural arts. Where a branch or shoot is cut, it will often be induced to make a number of young shoots from below the cut, and these are likely to flower more freely than the older branches.*

*Many shrubs benefit from the cutting out of all weak or dead wood and the shortening of strong shoots each winter.*

*Damage to plants is most often caused by pests such as insects, mites, eelworms, and other small creatures but may also be caused by mammals.*

*Prevention is generally better than cure, and constant vigilance is necessary to prevent a pest infestation or a disease outbreak. Control can be obtained by the use of chemical sprays, dusts, and fumigants.*

*Some control can be obtained through good garden practices: cleaning up all dead and diseased material and burning it; pruning and thinning so that a reasonable circulation of air is obtained through the plants; and crop rotation.*

On this same subject we find some more helpful information in the Britannica under “photosynthesis”: photosynthesis.

**Vol. 14 of Encyclopaedia Britannica. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., pp. 365-367:**

*During photosynthesis in green plants, light energy is captured and used to convert water, carbon dioxide, and minerals into oxygen and energy-rich organic compounds.*

*Growth, repair, reproduction, and other dynamic processes performed by organisms require light energy that is absorbed by chlorophyll pigments in green plants and stored as chemical energy in organic products, especially carbohydrates.*

*The chemical energy and electrical energy used by brain cells, for example, were once sunlight that was absorbed by the chlorophyll in green plants.*

*The amount of light, the carbon dioxide supply, and the temperature are the three most important environmental factors that directly affect the rate of photosynthesis; water and minerals in sufficient quantities also are necessary.*

As boring as all this may sound, it is important to observe for two reasons:

Jesus Christ created the earth and its ecosystem.

**Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Colossians 1:16** - By Him [Jesus Christ] all things were created [the universe], both in the heavens and on earth, visible [plants] and invisible [photosynthesis] whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things which have been created now exist through His agency and for His purpose.

**Colossians 1:17** - He is before all things [eternal God] and by means of Him all things cohere.

“All things” in this passage is stated in the Greek by the definite article, *ta*, + the neuter pronoun, *panta*, and refers to the fact that the creative act by our Lord was collective. That is, when He created the universe, all things were created at once, not over a long period of time. The Latin term is *ex nihilo*: which means everything was created at once, all at once, out of nothing.

It is the omnipotence of our Lord which maintains the order of the universe which, also accomplished simultaneously as is stated in:

**Colossians 1:17** - by means of Him all things cohere.

“Cohere” is the best English word to translate the verb, *sunistemi*. It means to hold together firmly as parts of the same mass. This is true of all things simultaneously including the visible as well as the invisible. Take for example the cultivation, growth production, and reproduction of the plant kingdom, i.e., photosynthesis.

**Genesis 1:11** - Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth,” and it was so.