**Working Out Our Salvation**

*Philippians 2:12-16*

**Introduction**

1. **Acts 16** – Paul heeded the Macedonian call (vision), and preached in Philippi.
   1. Lydia converted.
   2. Put in jail for casting out the spirit of divination.
   3. Philippian jailer and his household converted.
   4. **Acts 16:40** – released from prison and visited brethren in the house of Lydia.
2. **Acts 20:1-2** – came to Macedonian again (no doubt visited Philippi), and encouraged them.
3. Paul desired, intended, and had confidence that he would visit them again – **Philippians 1:24-26; 2:24.**
   1. His coming would be a source of mutual joy.
   2. His coming would encourage them in the faith, and give opportunity for Paul to further strengthen them with teaching.
4. However, his coming was not a guarantee any more than anything else, and even if he did come it could have been delayed. So he instructed:
   1. **Philippians 1:27** – Maintain conduct worthy of Christ.
   2. **Philippians 2:12** – Work out your own salvation.
      1. Their salvation was independent of the person Paul, and all others.
      2. They would be responsible for their individual salvation regardless of whether they ever saw Paul again.
      3. Paul expected them to remain faithful, and grow regardless of his presence.
      4. NOTE: This is an indication of true faith and conviction – YOU WILL MAINTAIN FAITH AND OBEDIENCE NO MATTER WHAT. (I.e. it is not dependent on another person.) (INTEGRITY)
5. We should heed Paul’s words to the Philippians to work out our salvation, and in the specific ways he instructed.
6. Dual Working – Man and God
7. Work Out Your Own Salvation **(v. 12)**
   1. It has always been the case that salvation is an individual matter each one is responsible for.
   2. **Acts 16:14-15** – Lydia – HER, SHE, ME TO BE FAITHFUL – these were things left up to HER to do.
   3. **Acts 16:29-30** – Jailer – WHAT MUST I DO – something HE had to do HIMSELF. **(v. 34** – HE…HAVING BELIEVED)
   4. A continued responsibility until ultimate fulfillment:
      1. **2 Peter 1:10a** – diligence to make salvation sure.
      2. **2 John 8** – look to YOURSELVES to not lose that worked for.
   5. Our salvation is OUR RESPONSIBILITY and we must work it out. However, God is there to help. (WE MUST DO SO WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING!)
8. For God Works in You (**v. 13**)
   1. God has had a part to play since the beginning, and on until the end – **Colossians 2:12** – raised through God’s working.
      1. God worked out our salvation from the start as we complied with His demands. He continues to do so in the same manner.
      2. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – God works in us toward salvation through the word.
      3. **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22** – SO DON’T HINDER THE WORD.
      4. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-17** – called by the gospel, and sustained by the gospel (divine traditions). Established in every good work.
   2. Twofold working of God in us through the word:
      1. **TO WILL** – gives the desire through the gospel based on the promises – ultimately of the inheritance and heaven.
      2. **TO DO** – gives the instruction on what we are to do. (**cf. Ephesians 2:10** – created good works for us to walk in, and tells us what they are.)
   3. Paul elaborates on this idea of working out our salvation by describing how that will look.
9. Working Out Our Salvation
10. Without Complaining and Disputing **(v. 14)**
    1. Such is in the context of living faithfully in the midst of the CROOKED AND PERVERSE GENERATION.
    2. **Philippians 1:28-30** – adversaries giving them trouble through suffering.
    3. **Complaining** – *goggysmos*; a grumbling: — grudging, murmuring. (In private about displeasure from some kind of discomfort.)
    4. **Disputing** – *dialogismos*; discussion, i.e. (internal) consideration (by implication, purpose), or (external) debate. (Arguing about a perceived injustice or based on some disagreement.)
    5. ***“Do all things without murmurings and questionings” (ASV).***
       1. The idea is mumbling in private about some discontentment and allowing that to fester until an outward questioning regarding the fairness of your situation – ultimately against God.
       2. **Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:1-11** – Israel was saved in the Exodus, and God provided for them, but they were not content, complained, and lashed out against God in rebellion – they were destroyed.
       3. Rebellion of Korah – **Numbers 16:1-3, 8-11, 31-35** – complained, discontent, rebelled against God’s order, were destroyed. (**cf. Jude 11, 16** – characteristic of those who go after their own lusts in rebellion against authority – I.E. NOT CONTENT WITH THE LORD’S WILL)
    6. We are expected to serve God, even and especially during suffering, without complaining and disputing. We must patiently bear our difficulties, and never question God!
    7. **Philippians 4:11-13** – This is accomplished by learning contentment in Christ. (**cf. Philippians 4:4** – rejoice always, never complain!)
11. As Lights in the World **(v. 15)**
    1. ***“blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach” (NASB)***
    2. We must not complain and dispute against the Lord because His dealings with us are toward our sanctification from the world. (**Philippians 2:15)**
    3. **1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7-8** – God’s will for us is sanctification/holiness in doing His will.
       1. **Sanctification/holiness** – being set apart – namely from the world.
       2. **Light/darkness** – separated – **cf. Colossians 1:13** – out of darkness into the kingdom.
    4. We are being sanctified as we comply with God’s will (**cf. John 17:17)**.
    5. This is a continual process that is made more complete through time (**cf. 2 Corinthians 7:1**).
    6. Our light must shine – ***“AMONG WHOM YOU SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD”***
       1. I.E. the working out of our own salvation is not a clandestine activity.
       2. It is not overt for the sake of being overt, but BY NATURE.
    7. **Cf. Matthew 5:14-16** – Let your light shine to be seen by men. What does this accomplish? 🡪
    8. **Ephesians 5:8-14** – It manifests the works of darkness that men might be brought out of such darkness to receive spiritual light. (We, as children of light, MUST ACT THE PART – part of working out our salvation – **cf. Ephesians 5:5-7** – because partaking with them in those activities will cause you to miss heaven.)
12. Holding Fast the Word of Life **(v. 16)**
    1. **Philippians 3:1-2** – Especially important to tell the Philippians because of the influence of Judaizing teachers.
    2. **Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17** (as before) – Salvation according to the truth, the gospel, and maintaining and consummating such through the divine traditions.
    3. **2 Timothy 1:13** – holding fast the pattern.
       1. WHY HOLD IT FAST? – ***“HOLDING FAST THE WORD OF LIFE” (Philippians 2:16)***
       2. THE WORD PERTAINS TO LIFE – it reveals life, and imparts life.
       3. HOLD IT FAST BECAUSE – **2 Timothy 1:8-12**:
          1. **(v. 9)** – Saved by calling according to HIS purpose in Christ.
          2. **(v. 10)** – Revealed by Christ – BROUGHT LIFE, IMMORTALITY to light THROUGH GOSPEL.
          3. **(v. 12)** – He is able to keep our life we commit to Him through the gospel. (**cf. 1 Peter 1:3-5** – kept by faith)
       4. You CANNOT work out your own salvation without THE WORD.

**Conclusion**

1. We must understand that our salvation is not completed as long as this life continues.
2. Until we reach the end we must be diligent in working out our salvation.
3. This is not without the help of God, but we must understand the nature of His help being through the word, and comply with His ways.