

The Book of Philippians
“The Christian Working Out, God Working In”
7/24/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Philippians 2:12-13, Ephesians 2:8-9, 10; 1 Peter 1:13-16

Sermon Notes

- Last week we spoke about the Model of Humility and Spiritual Unity.
- We were able to see Christ’s example of how he expects us to humble ourselves.
- Not only did Christ come to die for all of us, he lived as a human being for over 33 years experiencing what we experience as humans on earth so that he could be our supreme example on how to live.
- This morning we will look at The Christian Working Out, God Working In and we will explore the Christian’s role in salvation as we seek to understand what Paul was teaching the Philippian church.

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

- There is no doubt that v. 12 has been a verse that has been taken out of context many times over the years.
- People have sought to understand what Paul was meaning by “working out your salvation.”
- There are people within Christianity that believe that Christians must in some way “earn” or “work for” their salvation by doing good deeds.
- This is in direct violation of Ephesians 2:8-9, **“⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”**
- These verses plainly tell us that salvation cannot be earned, it is a gift of God, so there is nothing we can do to earn or work for our salvation.
- There are others within Christianity that believe that there is nothing that they have to do at all to be saved outside of praying a prayer.
- This also is in direct violation of countless passages of Scripture such as the very next verse in Ephesians that we were reading which is v. 10, **“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**
- Also 1 Peter 1:13-16, **“¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy.**
- So it should be apparent that neither of those two camps of people are correct. We cannot earn our salvation by doing good works, but it is clear that the Bible is calling us to live a certain way and to do good works.
- This brings us back to our passage in Philippians as we see to understand what Paul is saying by “working out” our salvation.
- Unfortunately, in our world today “Salvation” is an extremely misunderstood topic because of all the opinions that are floating around in churches and outside of the church.
- First, “Salvation” is not “Fire Insurance” where you come and pray a prayer at an altar or at home and you simply got out of going to Hell.
- Salvation how the average person sees it is where you admit to God that you are a sinner, let Him know that you believe in His Son Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection, and you confess your sins to God and surrender your heart and life to him.
- That is great, however there is also a process called Sanctification which is the process by which you and I are set apart from sin and made holy in God’s sight.
- This is a process not an instance that takes place only one time.

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- We are constantly in the process of sanctification as long as we live on this earth.
- If you are “saved” and someone ask you are you “sanctified” you can certainly answer yes, because a truly saved person would be living a life that is holy and pleasing to God as best they can.
- The Holy Spirit is the one that brings sanctification and helps us to live lives that are sanctified every day.

- Sanctification gets mixed up with Salvation in the church and then we totally misunderstand what God has instore for us and it also makes us misunderstand verses like Philippians 2:12-13.
- When you look at what Paul is writing to them here, he is calling them to “work OUT” their salvation.
- He goes on in v. 13 to remind people that God is at work IN us.
- God is going to do everything necessary to work on our “inside,” **we are called to put that internal work in to external practice.**
- As we being to change our attitudes and actions to align with what God’s will is for us, we begin to move more and more towards the holy lives that he wants us to lead.
- Do not buy into the lie that Satan is spewing in this world that says that you do not have any responsibility to live a certain way or act a certain way in this life.
- If that is your viewpoint, you haven’t spent much time reading the Bible.
- Because of what God has done for us in sending His Son to live and die for us, and because He works on us every day on the inside, He expects that our outward behavior will reflect the internal changes.

- This is what Paul was meaning when he said “work out your salvation.”
- He was speaking to the people about how they live and how they act and making sure that those words and actions lined up with who they should be on the inside.
- We are called to be different than the world and you cannot be a Saved and Sanctified Christian if you are still acting just like this world.
- Every day we should strive to live holy and pleasing lives for God, free of sinful attitudes and actions.
- When we make mistakes and fail, we get back up, repent and do better the next day.
- God is not looking for us to reach some state of perfection in this life, but he sure is looking for us to strive for that perfection.
- There is coming a day when we will know what this perfection truly fills like when we reach heaven, but for now, we are to live as examples to this world as we follow Christ as our example.