

# REJOICE!

## *Joy in the Work of Our Salvation, Philippians 2:12-18*

### Work Out!

**Philippians 2:12-18 (KJV) 12** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

- Paul is continuing his exhortation to the church at Philippi
- The church at Philippi always followed Paul's instructions when he was present with them, now that he's absent from them, obedience to what he taught them is even more important
- He challenges them to *work out* their own salvation with fear and trembling
- Paul did not mean believers have to "work" to earn or accomplish their salvation
- What Paul is saying believers are to work out their salvation by making it *evident* in every area of their lives
- Our salvation is both "complete" and "incomplete"
  1. Our salvation is "complete" in the sense that Jesus has done a complete work *for us* by His death and resurrection
  2. Our salvation is "incomplete" in the sense that it is not yet a complete work *in us* **Philippians 1:6 (KJV) 6** ***Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:***
    - The Christian life is to move from *salvation* to *sanctification*; the process of growing more and more like Jesus while we are living on earth and on to *glorification* where we spend eternity in heaven, and we become glorified like Jesus
- We are to work out our *own* salvation
  - Sometimes we can show more concern for the work of God in *others* at the expense of His work in us
- It is your own salvation, no one can work it out *for you*
- We are to work out our own salvation with *fear and trembling*
  - This "fear" has nothing to do with the fear of hell and damnation, it is the *reverential fear* of God
  - This is not the "trembling" of guilty sinner, it is the joyful trembling of an encounter with the glory of God
- Paul was exhorting believers to maintain a Christian *work ethic* even though he was absent from them

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- Can we *really* work out our own salvation? Yes, with God's help  
**13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**
- The word *work* here means *energy or power*
- God *works in* what He wants us to *work out*
- It is God that works in us the desire to be saved
- The *continuance* of this process is dependent on God
- The end of the process of salvation is we are His and He is ours
- The work of salvation starts, continues, and ends with God
- God works in us to transform our *will* and change our *actions* (to do)
- When God stirs us to do His will, we must not neglect it, ignore it, or refuse it; but *do* it
- The motive behind God's work in our lives is because He is pleased to do it
- What God works *in* us, we must work *out* of us
- God wants His will to be *evident and demonstrated* in our lives

#### **Watch Out!**

**14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:**

**15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.**

- Paul doesn't merely exhort the Philippians to work out their own salvation, he tells them *how* to do it
- Believers are to work out their own salvation by *watching out* to avoid murmurings and disputings; complaining and arguing
- Complaining is "I *didn't* get my way"; arguing is "I *will* get my way"
- If we are complaining and arguing, we are not working out our salvation
- How we break the habit of complaining and arguing?
- By admitting the root of our complains and arguments is "selfishness"
- *All things* are to be done without complaining or arguing against God or other people, no exceptions
- Instead we are to live *blameless* lives; lives above reproach in the church and the world
- We are to live *harmless* lives; unmixed and unadulterated

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- Believers are to work at living lives without *rebuke*; without spot, blemish, or defect
- We are to be the *light* that shines in a dark world that is full of crooked and perverse people **Matthew 5:16 (KJV) 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
- As Christians, we are *already* the light of the world
- The question is how brightly are we shining?
- We are to hold onto the word of life, not only by our *profession*, but also in *conversation*
- We must share the gospel with a world that is in desperate need of Jesus
- This could only happen if the Philippians (and us) continue to walk with the Lord by *watching out* for complaining and arguing

#### **Pour Out!**

**17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.**

**18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.**

- Believers can work out their salvation by following a godly example
- Paul said he offered himself as a sacrifice to serve others
- Paul literally “poured out” his life to help the Philippians live for Jesus
- Paul’s life was going to be a sacrifice for Jesus, either in life or in death and that was a source of joy for Paul and he wants the Philippians to have the same attitude
- He wants the Philippians to be committed to Jesus and to sacrifice and help other know Jesus
- When you’re committed to serving Jesus, and sacrificing to building the faith of others, it produces joy and its own reward