

Work Out Your *Own* Salvation

Text: Philippians 2:1-13

Introduction:

1. In the letter to the Philippians, one of the prison epistles of Paul, while explaining the joys of Christianity, he begins a lesson on humility.
 - a. The greatest example comes from the life of Christ. (our text)
 - b. Their need for humility is obvious: God exalts the humble—only those who are humble will be saved.
 - 1) God resist's the proud and one who has pride in his heart is an abomination to Him. (James 4:6; Proverbs 16:5)
2. “*Work out*” (v. 12) means to “*work on to the finish – finishing the job*” or “*carry out to the goal.*”
 - a. They needed to work on the attitude of humility which brings obedience.
 - b. Obedience to Christ is constant -- it begins at baptism and is completed in death. (Luke 6:46; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 3:21; Revelation 2:10)

I. “Your” Salvation Is Personal

- A. No one can perform the work assigned for you – it is a charge given to you and you alone.
- B. The seven churches of Asia.
 1. “*He who overcomes ...*” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17,26; 3:5, 12,21)
 2. You will either overcome the world or be overcome by it. (2 Peter 2:18-22)
- C. Do not allow the faults of others to deter you. (2 Corinthians 10:12)
 1. If my family rejects salvation, I still want it. (Luke 13:23-30)
 2. A sobering thought: We will all stand before the judge one by one. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

II. “Work Out” Means to Complete

- A. “*one who has endured to the end ...*” (Matthew 10:22)
- B. One can come up short of entering the final rest. (Hebrews 4:1-2, 11)
- C. Each one must complete his/her own salvation on the basis of God’s will.
 1. “*Bear one another’s burdens.*” (Gr. baros) (Galatians 6:2)
 2. “*Each one will bear his own load.*” (Gr. phortion) (Galatians 6:5)

III. “With Fear and Trembling”

- A. Fear: “*Not slavish terror, but wholesome, serious caution.*” (Vincent Commentary)
 - 1. A deep sense of responsibility to obey God in all things. (Psalm 34:8-11; Proverbs 1:7)
 - 2. A real fear of displeasing God. (James 3:1)
- B. The example of Felix. (Acts 24:25)
- C. We are dealing with our very own soul, hence the need to fear and tremble. (Matthew 16:24-26)
- D. Let us consider no sacrifice too great. (Hebrews 2:3)

Conclusion:

- 1. Nothing is more important than your soul’s salvation; therefore, there is nothing more important for you to do than to humbly submit in obedience to Christ and to begin to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
- 2. If you are not a Christian today, obey the gospel message by: believing that Jesus is the Christ (John 8:24), repenting of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38), confessing His Name before men (Acts 8:37), being immersed for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38) and remaining steadfast until the end (Acts 2:42) working out **YOU OWN** salvation with fear and trembling.