

WHAT TO DO, WITH WHAT WE KNOW

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you 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;

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Philippians 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Philippians 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Philippians 2:18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

INTRO:

(1) The word **Therefore**, means Paul is getting into the application after teaching us about unity through humility and love, for one another, and then, showing us supreme example of humility and obedience

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

(2) The application comes down to three responses found in Phil 2:12-17

OUTLINE:

- I. WORKING
- II. SHINING
- III. HOLDING

I. WORKING out, your own salvation

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1. THEY HAD ALWAYS OBEYED HIS GODLY TEACHING, WHEN HE WAS WITH THEM AS THEIR PASTOR.

A PAUL EXHORTS HIS BELOVED, TO ACT IN THE PRESENT, AS THEY ACTED IN THE PAST.

IDEA: What was it?

They had been working out their own salvation

IDEA: What does this mean?

They actively sought to do what was pleasing to God. and they did it with fear and trembling

NOTICE: This is the will of God for all true Christians then and now

EXAMPLE: Paul explains it from three perspectives The What, The Why, and The How.

(1) The What. They were **not working for their salvation**, they were, **working out**, their, salvation, which means...

They were being responsible, to actively and consistently pursue obedience to God in the process of setting their lives apart from sin, and to God for His exclusive use. This is called sanctification. Jesus did this

John 17:19 And for their sakes I **sanctify Myself**, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "**My food** is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His word

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 14:24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

NOTICE: Doers, means one who does what is prescribed, In other words, like Jesus they were exhorted to be obedient follow His example, and live for knowing God, and obeying Him.

IDEA: I'm convinced that the absence of working out your own salvation, characterizes the average Christian in these days.

NOTICE: Let me say what I'm going to say as precisely, as I can.

I believe, that the word and concept of obeying God is **looked down upon** and or **disregarded** in most Christian Churches. It is considered to be **legalistic and condemning of others**. Saying, "We are under grace, not under the law"

Why is this so? There are many, many reasons, but one of them certainly is to portray **God as more of a Grandfather**, who expects nothing from his kids, and only wants to give them whatever they need.

Rather, as Almighty God who created all, and has provided salvation from sin, and deserves our highest attention. Another way of saying this, is that Christianity is viewed simply that God, and Jesus and Church, exists only to help them find happiness, and ways to work through problems in life

So, how did it become this way. Through errors.

This error has been called a **LOW VIEW OF GOD, AND A HIGH VIEW OF MAN**. Rather than seeing man, as a lost sinner, headed for judgement, and having no way of extracting himself from this eternal punishment for sins

And, these two errors are directly related to another error, **THE CHURCH EXISTS TO ENTERTAIN**. Especially, in the area of music.

And another root problem that literally creates the first two errors, is an **EXTREMELY LOW VIEW OF THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD**. They can tell you about the latest sports stats, and or great movies, and such, but their Bibles are collecting dust on the counter, and are rarely opened

Consequently, **Churches are filled to overflowing** with people, who **profess to be Christians, and are not**.

Who can sit through long Christian Concerts, but cannot stomach a 40-50 minute Bible Message. They can focus on sporting events that last two hours or more.

Two final thoughts. These same people do not have a hunger for the Word, and for true God honoring worship. They place attending services on a very low level of priority. And, are more concerned about tipping a meal server the going rate of 20%, or more, then to give God what is His, the 10% of their income. Most churches report a very, very small number of people actually tithe to the Lord.

And, many, many folks today talk about how much they need to rest, and yet, most of their pleasure seeking, involves more work than it's worth, along with the money spent. They get tired seeking pleasure, instead of actually finding rest.

(2) Having looked at the What,
let's move onto the How they
obeyed God.

With a healthy fear of offending God and a Righteous Awe and Respect for Him. These can only come about through the grace, the power of the Holy Spirit, and our own serious study of the Bible

(3) And, The Why or the
reason, why they
obeyed. See **Phil
2:13**

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure

NOTICE: Although the believer is responsible to work v. 12 the Lord, actually, produces the good works and spiritual fruit in the lives of believers

John 15:5 I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

EXAMPLE: To will and to do is accomplished because He works through us by His indwelling Spirit

God energizes both the believer's desires and his actions.

NOTICE: The Gr word for "will" indicates that God is not focusing on mere desires or whimsical emotions but on the studied intent to fulfill a planned purpose

POINT: God's power makes His church willing to live Godly lives, and to do His good pleasure.

God wants His children to do what satisfies Him

DEA: Paul adds two final thoughts about working out our salvation and doing God's will

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

(1) Without complaining and disputing. The Gr word for complaining is a

term that actually, sounds like what it means. Its pronunciation is much like muttering or grumbling in a low tone of voice.

It is an emotional rejection of God's providence, will, and circumstances for one's life.

(2) The word for disputing is more intellectual and here it means "questionings," or criticisms directed negatively toward God.

Disputing is the process of reasoning, verbal exchange that takes place when conflicting ideas are expressed, *dispute*, reasoning that gives rise to uncertainty, *doubt*

You could sum up what Paul was saying in this verse, Paul was saying, keep being obedient to God's Word, and do it with the Godly attitude you had, because, you know that God is working in you, to bring about you walking in his will, and doing His will, without complaining, and arguing, and causing doubt

I WORKING, OUT OUR SALVATION.

II. SHINING in this perverse generation

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

1. NOW PAUL GIVES US THE PURPOSE, FOR ALL THAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING IN THREE SEPARTE THOUGHTS

A. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT HIS WORK IN YOU, HAS TO DO WITH THIS NEEDY WORLD

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

IDEA: Here are the three ways Paul explains this to us

- (1) It's what God intends for us to become
- (2) It's what God says about this world we live in
- (3) It's the effect God says we have on the world around us

IDEA: That you may become. This introduces the reasons believers should have the right attitude in pursuing godliness.

NOTICE: Become, indicates a process—they are to be growing toward something they do not yet fully possess as children of God (cf. Eph. 5:1; Titus 2:1).

NOTICE: Blameless" describes a life that cannot be criticized because of sin or evil. Harmless which can also be translated innocent, describes a life that is pure, unmixed, and unadulterated with sin,

EXAMPLE: Much like high quality metal without any alloy

IDEA: Here are the three final things Paul says. About describing us, the world we live in, and the effect we have upon it.

(1) Without fault. Can also be translated above reproach. In the Gr. OT, it is used several times of the kind of sacrifice to be brought to God, i.e., spotless and without blemish

(2) Crooked and perverse generation. Crooked” is the word from which the word scoliosis comes, which is the curvature of the spinal column comes from.

It describes something that is deviated from the standard, which is true of all who stray from God's path

Perverse intensifies this meaning by referring to one who has strayed so far off the path that his deviation is severely twisted and distorted

Paul and John both applies this condition to the sinful world system.

1st John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of the wicked one*.

EXAMPLE: As mentioned, the world we live in, is perverse

Changing Gender or trying to change genders. Gay, Pride Parades in cities big and small. Christians mocked as hateful, caring more about the Greening of our planet, then the saving of millions, and millions of babies who are being aborted yearly. Animal Cruelty registers higher on the concern scale, then do human beings. Let alone, the slow growing hatred, and intolerance for the Christian message.

(3) Shine as lights. Is a metaphor speaking of spiritual character.

Shine can be more precisely rendered you have to shine, which means believers must show their character in the midst of a dark culture, as the sun, moon, and stars shine in otherwise dark sky *on*

I. WORKING, OUT OUR SALVATION. II. SHINNING AS LIGHTS

III. HOLDING fast the Word of Life

Philippians 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Philippians 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

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1. PAUL NOW TURNS TO WHAT WE MUST NEVER LET GO OF

A. NOTICE HOW PAUL EXPLAINS THIS PORTION

(1) Holding fast. A slightly different translation, is holding forth. It more accurately reflects the verb in the original text.

Here it refers to believers' holding out or offering something to others

Jesus put it this way. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men

NOTICE: Fishing is the result of following Jesus

EXAMPLE: This comes about by a high view of God being God centered, and a high view of God's Word, rather than what is generally coming across most pulpits in these days.

The Church at large has lost it's way. It has become man centered self

(2) Rejoice, you also, rejoice.

An attitude of mutual joy ought to accompany any sacrificial Christian service

(3) Bing poured out. From the Gr. that means "to be offered as a libation or drink offering." Some connect this with Paul's future martyrdom, but the verb is in the present tense means he is referring to his sacrificial ministry among the Philippians. **drink offering.** This refers to the last part of an ancient animal sacrifice.

EXAMPLE: The person would pour wine either in front of or on top of the burning animal and the wine would be vaporized.

NOTICE: That steam symbolized the rising of the offering to the deity for whom the sacrifice was made

Paul viewed his entire life as a drink offering, and here it was poured on the Philippians' sacrificial service. **service of your faith.** "Service" comes from a word that refers to sacred, priestly service (cf. Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 9:12) and was so used in the Gr. OT. Paul sees the Philippians as priests who were offering their lives sacrificially and faithfully in service to God (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9), which

This is how Jesus viewed His life, and it's how Paul viewed the Philippians