

Wednesday Night

August & September 2018

Philippians

Discovering God In The Midst Of Life



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Philippians 2:12-30

"The Essentials of Service
& Examples in Service"

Study of The Book of
Philippians

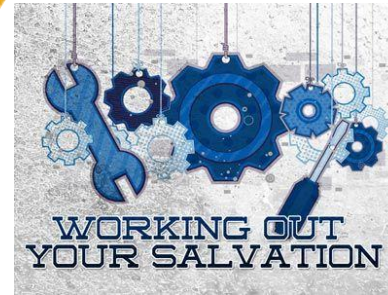


Philippians 2:12 - 16

THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE:

Philippians 2:12 – 18 (NKJV) – “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**; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ **Do all things without complaining and disputing**, 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, 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.”

- These verses exhort us to _____ our salvation through Christian **SERVICE**. Paul, by the Holy Spirit, details the essential _____ and heart _____ God requires.
 - **1st – Exhortation to WORK our own Salvation (Verses 12 & 13)** – This verse starts with a results clause. Based on the Lord’s obedience and delivery of salvation to us, we are to take that new birth, our redemption realities in Christ, and begin to produce our new _____ in our daily lives.
 - ✓ “...**as you have always** (at all times) **obeyed** (to obey by listening)”... [Remember, take heed “**what**” you hear (**Mark 4:24**) and take heed “**how**” you hear (**Luke 8:18**) – a listening ear is a willing and obedient heart; “you get the Plan on the *Willing Band*”]; the meaning of this phrase in the Greek is “to answer the door.” Open the door of **OBEEDIENCE**.
 - ✓ Paul does not say, “Work for your salvation”; God has already worked to make salvation possible. The Christian’s role is to _____ **OUT** what God has _____ **IN** by cultivating the characteristics of a godly life. This faithfulness will allow believers to _____ as lights in the world. (**Matt 5:14-16; John 1:4; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 1:7**)
 - ✓ “...**with fear and trembling**” = this indicates an **obsession** to do it _____. Maximum effort should go into our outward life before the world. What God does in us has no mistakes; however, our own efforts to the new birth/new life in Christ can be _____. We need to see our every action as an outward witness to the world.
 - **2nd – Essential _____ and _____ (Verses 14 – 16) – Complaining** is muttering (in a low voice) or grumbling – an inner rebellion that defies God to His face and disputes His right to rule; **Disputing** is criticism, skeptical questionings; **Blameless** means “above reproach”; **Harmless** mean “pure, unmixed or unadulterated.”
 - ✓ When producing the good works which God has willed to do in us, we are to do it with a _____ **ATTITUDE**. This means things are done in _____ and with an attitude of _____. When we are in fellowship, we are under the control of the Holy Spirit Who sheds love abroad in our hearts (**Romans 5:5**). This keeps our lives from being _____.
 - ✓ “...**in the midst of a crooked** (bent) **and perverse** (twisted, distorted, perverted) **nation** (generation)” = we get the medical term “*scoliosis*” from this word (Gr: *skolios*); Our _____ before the world should be as obvious as a straight rope placed in the middle of ropes that are twisted into knots.
 - ✓ Our works are not a means of **spirituality** or **salvation** but a result of them. We should, like Paul, want our torches to shine brightly and the gospel message of Christ to the world not be clouded by human effort, strife or man-made standards.



Philippians 2:17 – 30

“Examples of Humility in Service”

THE EXAMPLES OF PAUL, TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS:

Philippians 2:17 – 18 (NKJV) – “*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. 18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.*”

- This drink offering was poured out on the ground in front of the heathen deities (**Romans 15:16; 2 Timothy 4:6**).
- Paul presents three human role models for born-again, Christian believers to follow – not as a matter of ego but as these men pattern themselves after Christ.

He cites himself (**Paul**) as a *model* of _____. (**Philippians 2:17 – 18**)

Timothy as a *model* of _____. (**Philippians 2:19 – 24**)

Epaphroditus as a *model* of _____. (**Philippians 2:25 – 30**)

Philippians 2:19 – 24 (NKJV) – “*19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. 23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.*”

- Paul mentions Timothy 24 times in his letters, and Timothy is listed with Paul as the sender of several letters (Epistles). No one was as dear as Timothy to Paul.
- Paul’s _____ is seen as he describes his relationship with Timothy as a son working with him, not for him. With the use of this single word, Paul places their positions on equal level. True, committed and covenant **PARTNERS!**

Philippians 2:25 – 30 (NKJV) – “*25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; 26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.*”

- **Epaphroditus** is a regular member of the Church at Philippi. Yet Paul refers to him as a **fellow soldier**, not just a brother and **fellow worker** for a good cause; twice Epaphroditus risked his life to minister to Paul (**Philippians 2:27, 30**)
- IT IS NEVER ENOUGH TO BE A **WORKER** IN THE MINISTRY; ONE MUST ALSO LEARN TO BE A _____.
