

Sermon Discussion 11 October 2020

Read Philippians 2:12-18 together.

Dig Deeper

The Philippians were to work out their salvation. Note that Paul did not say “work for your salvation.” We obtain salvation by receiving it as a gift (see Ephesians 2:8-9) but having received it freely we have a responsibility to cultivate it.

The apostle had in mind the present aspect of our salvation, sanctification, in which we are laborers together with God (see 1 Corinthians 3:9; Titus 3:8). In justification and glorification, God does all the work. We work out our salvation by keeping in step with the Holy Spirit who leads us in the will of God. In the context, the particular aspect of sanctification in view involves achieving unity through humility.

When living this way, Christians becomes lights in a dark world. John 8:12 says the Light of the World now indwells us. Paul wanted his readers to bear a strong witness rather than having their light shaded by sin or uncleanness (see Matthew 5:15-16). Light is a good illustration of something that does what it has to do by being what it ought to be.

1. There is a significant difference between “working for your salvation” and “working out your salvation.” Why is this an important distinction to make?
2. What does it mean to have “a long obedience in the same direction”?
3. How does grumbling and complaining damage your witness?
4. We are all tempted to complain and grumble. How can you maintain a joyful attitude in the face of the problems of life?
5. Paul also uses the image of being a “drink offering.” What does this image teach you about the nature of your ministry to others?

Application & Prayer

- This message talked about the Christian’s sanctification. Discuss and pray for particular areas in your life for which you need growing in godliness.
- This passage follows the “Christ Hymn” from Philippians 2:5-11. Re-read that section and meditate on the glory of Jesus’ example.