



Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

Philippians 2:12,13- Work Out Your Salvation

- ***Review Philippians 2:8-11***
 - Although outwardly the Lord Jesus Christ appeared as a man (humiliation + the cross), inwardly He was fully Deity.
 - Christ's exaltation was a consequence of His given task fully accomplished.
 - One day, all must bow their knees and confess with their tongues that Jesus is both Lord and Christ.
- ***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;***
 - So, what's *therefore*, there for?
 - *as you have always obeyed* – aorist active indicative
 - How should we interpret *always obeyed*?
 - Refers to *verse 1:27*.



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» *Phil 1:27 - Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*

- Do you agree with McCalley? – ‘Verse 12 points to a weakness on the part of the believers at Philippi. **They tended to be a bit lax in their Christian lives when Paul was not present.**’
- And to what is the *obedience*?
 - And notice as Paul desired, *as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence*
 - *work out (imperative) your own salvation with fear and trembling;*
 - Frequently quoted but what does this mean?
 - Certainly not to work for *your own salvation!*
 - The recipients here are already saved.
 - Salvation is a work of God not of man.
 - » *Phil 3:9 - **and be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is from God by faith;*



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- Wuest – ‘The words "*work out*" are the translation of a Greek word which means "to carry out to the goal, to carry to its ultimate conclusion." - which is Christ in us!
 - » *1 Cor 3:9 - For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; you are God's building.*
 - » *1 Cor 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
 - » *Titus 3:8 - This is a faithful saying, and these **things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable to men.*
- Best described as **sanctification**, set apart in the life of Christ!
- Wuest – ‘This is not a slavish terror, but a wholesome caution. "This fear is self-distrust; it is tenderness of conscience; it is vigilance against temptation; **it is the fear which inspiration opposes to high-mindedness** in the admonition, 'be not high-minded but fear.' **It is taking heed lest we fall**; it is a constant apprehension of the deceitfulness of the heart, and of the insidiousness and power of inward corruption. **It is the caution and circumspection** which timidly shrinks from whatever would offend and dishonor God and the Savior (Vincent, quoting Wardlaw *On Proverbs*) “. **This is human responsibility.**



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- Do you think this command is for the individual or the church body as a whole?
- Meyer explains this responsibility based on what Paul has already stated earlier in Chapter 2 - ‘Do nothing through pride and vainglory. Look on the things of others. Count others better than yourself. Work *out* what God is working *in* you. Your heart is God’s workshop! His Spirit is there, striving against selfishness, pride, impurity, and vanity, but you must consolidate each holy impulse in speech and act.’
- ***Philippians 2:13 - for it is God who works (present active) in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure (ILG – on behalf of His good will).***
 - *God who works – present active* and implies *works* effectively.
 - From *works* in the Greek we get the word energy.
 - How does this happen – if this a choice, what kind of choice?
 - *To do* and *to will* are *present active infinitive* and when implemented predicts a good outcome.
 - What do we consider a good outcome?



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- McCalley – ‘The words *to will* point to the Lord’s desire for us to **will**, to decide, to **make quality choices**. It is not the will of the Lord to crush the believer’s volition.’
- Yes, and this choice is to live by faith, in the His power who enlightens us, and has us live in the new creation we are in Christ Jesus!
 - » *2 Cor 3:5 - Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,*
- Wuest – ‘It is God the Holy Spirit who energizes the saint, making him not only willing, but actively desirous of doing God's sweet will.....
In verse twelve, we have human responsibility, in verse thirteen, divine enablement, a perfect balance which must be kept if the Christian life is to be lived at its best. It is not a *"let go and let God"* affair. It is a *"take hold with God"* business.’
 - » *Eph 1:11 – In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*
 - » *Eph 3:20 - Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*
 - » *Phil 1:6 - being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*



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