

Work Out Your Own Salvation: Philippians 2:12–18

Grace Chapel

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND REVIEW:

REVIEW:

(1:3–8) Thanks to God for the good work begun at Philippi (financial partnership)

(1:9–11) Prayer for the Philippians' love to abound still more in discernment so that they would approve the things that really matter (thru Christ enabling)—that they might be rewarded

(1:12–18) Paul's imprisonment has furthered the gospel, because:

1. Roman officials know that he is innocent, but is imprisoned for the gospel,
2. many brethren now boldly proclaim gospel w/ proper motivation w/o fear.

Even tho some brethren preach it from envy & strife (hoping to afflict Paul).

but Paul rejoices when the true gospel is proclaimed (something that matters)

(1:19–26) Paul expects the Lord to answer prayer that Paul not be ashamed, but that he magnify Christ in his body (thru life or thru death), but, as attractive as it is to be with the Lord, Paul wants to minister to the Philippians, so he prefers to remain alive (to go to Philippi)

(1:27–30) The Philippians' adversaries should not terrify them (by saying that the Philippians' are hell-bound because of their message) because the Philippians were heaven-bound because of their message, for God has given them the same opportunity to both believe the gospel and to suffer for Christ as Paul.

(2:1–2a) Believers should fulfill Paul's joy because:

- (1) believers' position in Christ exhorts/comforts them,
- (2) the Father's love for believers comforts them,
- (3) the Holy Spirit enables believers to fellowship with God and each other,
- (4) [God enables] tenderness and affection to exist between believers

(2:2b) Believers are to fulfill Paul's joy, specifically, believers should:

- (1) be like-minded,
- (2) have mutual love for each other,
- (3) have the same soul (as each other),
- (4) be one-minded.

(2:3) Believers are to do nothing according to selfish conceit, but to regard others above self

(2:4) We should not only look out for ourselves, but also for the interests of others

(2:5–8) Believers ought to have the same (gracious) mindset for others as Christ: i.e.,

though Jesus Christ was in the form of God, He did not cling to His equality with God, but emptied Himself by taking a bondservant's form & appearing as man, He humbled Himself and obediently died on a cross [as a criminal would]

(2:9–11) [In light of Christ obediently dying as a criminal on a cross] the Father gave Him the supreme name for all creation to bow before Him and to confess Him as Lord to the Father's glory

1. [In light of Christ obediently humbling Himself until God exalted Him] the Philippians, who obeyed Paul (despite his absence), ought to produce their own deliverance reverentially (2:12)

Work out is *katergazomai* (*kata* + *ergazomai*; English derives *energize* from *ergazomai*)

It means work out your own salvation, produce your own salvation

It does not mean “Let your salvation be outworked”

Some illustrations: *katergazomai* means **produce**

Romans 5³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.

Romans 7⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.

Romans 7¹³ Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

Romans 7¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

What does *salvation* mean here?

Does it mean *being regenerated* (phase 1 salvation)?

Does it mean *being spared alive in this life* (phase 2 salvation)?

Does it mean *being delivered rewardable into God's presence* (phase 3 salvation)?

Clue 1:

Clue 2:

From what do they need deliverance?

2. [The Philippians ought to produce their own deliverance reverentially,] because God is working in them to accomplish His purposes (2:13)

3 The Philippians ought to do all things without complaining and disputing (2:14)

4. The purpose for doing all things without complaining and disputing is to be God's blameless and harmless children who shine as lights in this perverse world (2:15)

5. The way that they may be God's blameless and harmless children who shine as lights in this perverse world is by holding onto the life-giving word (2:16a)

6. The purpose for being God's blameless and harmless children who shine as lights in this perverse world is that Paul (and the Philippians) may rejoice without shame at the Bema (2:16b)

7. Paul rejoices with the Philippians at their sacrificial service in faith, even though his life is being poured out as a libation offering in prison (2:17)

Numbers 28

Does Paul's use of sacrificial terminology speak of him expecting execution?

8. The Philippians should rejoice in their sacrificial service in faith and join Paul in rejoicing (2:18)

CONCLUSION