Work Out Your Salvation

Philippians 2:1-18

(All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

1

Context – Philippians 2

- Unity – Verses 1-2

"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."
(Philippians 2:1-2)

2

Context – Philippians 2

- Attitude – Verses 3-4

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." **(Philippians 2:3-4)**

3

Context – Philippians 2

- Example of Christ – Verses 5-8

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." **(Philippians 2:5-8)**

4

Context – Philippians 2

- Example of Christ – Verses 9-11

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." **(Philippians 2:9-11)**

5

Context – Philippians 2

- Direct command – Verse 12
  - **What** were they commanded to do?

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, ***work out your salvation with fear and trembling*** *…"* **(Philippians 2:12)**

6

Context – Philippians 2

- Direct command – Verse 12
  - **When** were they commanded to do it?

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as <u>in my presence</u> only, but now much more <u>in my absence</u>, ***work out your salvation with fear and trembling*** *…"* **(Philippians 2:12)**

When he was there.
When he was not there.
A continual effort.

7

Work Out Your Salvation

- Obedience must be to please God!

"For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ." **(Galatians 1:10)**

"Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord." **(Colossians 3:22)**

"… not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." **(Ephesians 6:6)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- Obedience must be to please God!

"… so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God …" **(Colossians 1:10)**

"Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him." **(2 Corinthians 5:9)**

"Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more." **(1 Thessalonians 4:1)**

9

Work Out Your Salvation

- **Man works.**
- ***"What must we do?"***

*"Peter said to them, '****Repent****, and each of you* ***be baptized*** *in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"* **(Acts 2:38)**

*"And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, '****Be saved*** *from this perverse generation!'"* **(Acts 2:40)**

*"And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, '****Get up and go*** *on into Damascus, and there* ***you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do****.'"* **(Acts 22:10)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **Man works.**
- ***"What must we do?"***

"Now why do you delay? ***Get up and be baptized****, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'"* **(Acts 22:16)**

"And ***he ordered them to be baptized*** *in the name of Jesus Christ …"* **(Acts 10:48a)**

*"They said, '****Believe*** *in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"* **(Acts 16:31)**

"Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for ***as long as you practice these things****, you will never stumble …"* **(2 Peter 1:10)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **Man Works.**

"…With fear and trembling." **(Philippians 2:12)**

"I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power …" **(1 Corinthians 2:3-4)**

"His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling." **(2 Corinthians 7:15)**

"Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ …" **(Ephesians 6:5)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **Man Works.**
  - Fear of displeasing God.

"Thus says the LORD, 'Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,' declares the LORD. 'But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word." **(Isaiah 66:1-2)**

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." **(Matthew 10:28)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **Man Works.**
  - Reverence and awe of God.

"And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, 'A great prophet has arisen among us!' and, 'God has visited His people!'" **(Luke 7:14-16)**

14

Work Out Your Salvation

- **Fear and trembling.**
  - Reverence and awe of God.

"For they could not bear the command, 'If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.' And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, 'I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel." **(Hebrews 12:20-24)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **Fear and trembling.**
  - Reverence and awe of God.

"See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.' This expression, 'Yet once more,' denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service ***with reverence and awe****; for our God is a consuming fire."* **(Hebrews 12:25-29)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **<u>God Works.</u>**

"… for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." **(Philippians 2:13)**

- He began a good work in Philippi.

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 1:6)

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **<u>God Works.</u>**
  - He began a good work in Philippi – Acts 16

"A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.' And she prevailed upon us." **(Acts 16:14-15)**

"And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household." **(Acts 16:32-33)**

"They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed." **(Acts 16:40)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **God Works.**
  - Provides life to the dead.

"… having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions …" **(Colossians 2:12-13)**

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." **(Romans 6:3-4)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **God Works.**
  - When we, with reverence and awe obey God, He accomplishes His work through us.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." **(Ephesians 2:10)**

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." **(Titus 2:11-14)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **God Works.**
  - Examples:
    - The Fall of Jericho.

"So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city." **(Joshua 6:20)**

    - Naaman the Leper.

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean." **(2 Kings 5:14)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- **God Works.**
  - Examples:
    - The man born blind.

"When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing." **(John 9:6-7)**

    - Willingness to forgive.

"But Jesus was saying, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves." **(Luke 23:34)**

22

Work Out Your Salvation

- Without grumbling or disputing …"

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing …" **(Philippians 2:14)**

- Root Cause of the Downfall of Israel.

"Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play.' Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."
(1 Corinthians 10:7-12)
(cf. Numbers 14, 16, 21)

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Work Out Your Salvation

- So that you will prove yourselves …

*"… so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless** and **innocent**, children of God **above reproach** …"* **(Philippians 2:15a)**

- ***Blameless*:** "Deserving no censure ... free from fault or defect" (Thayer) **(cf. Luke 1:6)**
- ***Innocent*:** Pure, untainted, free from guile … "That which is in its original state ... moral innocence." (TDNT Kittel)
  (cf. Matthew 10:16; Romans 16:19)
- ***Above reproach*:** free from fault … as the blood of Christ.
  (cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-4, 27)

24

Work Out Your Salvation

- In a crooked and perverse generation …

"… in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation …" **(Philippians 2:15b)**

- We must be separate from the world.

"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.'" **(2 Corinthians 6:14-16)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- In a crooked and perverse generation …

"… in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation …" **(Philippians 2:15b)**

- We must be separate from the world.

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." **(Romans 12:1-2)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- In a crooked and perverse generation …

"… in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation …" **(Philippians 2:15b)**

- We must change the way we live.

(cf. Ephesians, Colossians, and Romans 6)

- We cannot "isolate" ourselves from the world.

"I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one." **(1 Corinthians 5:9-11)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- We are seen as lights in the world …

"… among whom you appear as lights in the world …" **(Philippians 2:15c)**

- Value of light is that it is "SEEN."
- From the beginning – first recorded command.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." **(Genesis 1:1-3)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- We are seen as lights in the world …

"… among whom you appear as lights in the world …" **(Philippians 2:15c)**

- Light dispels darkness.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." **(Matthew 5:14-16)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- We are seen as lights in the world …

"… among whom you appear as lights in the world …" **(Philippians 2:15c)**

- In Jesus.

"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men." **(John 1:4)**

"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.'" **(John 8:12)**

"While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." **(John 9:5)**

"I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness." **(John 12:46)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- We are seen as lights in the world …

"… among whom you appear as lights in the world …" **(Philippians 2:15c)**

- You are children of light!

"… for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; ***walk as children of Light*** *(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),* ***trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord****. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light."*
(Ephesians 5:8-13)

31

Work Out Your Salvation

- Holding fast the word …

"… holding fast the word of life …" **(Philippians 2:16a)**

- It is for Christians to hold on to.

"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain." **(1 Corinthians 15:1-2)**

- True disciples continue in His word.

"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" **(John 8:31-32)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- Holding fast the word …

"… holding fast the word of life …" **(Philippians 2:16a)**

"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was."
(James 1:21-24)

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Work Out Your Salvation

- Holding fast the word …

"… holding fast the word of life …" **(Philippians 2:16a)**

"But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." **(James 1:25-27)**

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Work Out Your Salvation

- Rejoice in the Lord and share your joy …

"But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me." **(Philippians 2:17-18)**

- Because by faith, Christ lives in us!

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
(Galatians 2:20)

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GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

- **Hear the Word**
  (James 1:21; Romans 10:17)
- **Believe the Gospel**
  (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)
- **Repent Of Sins**
  (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)
- **Confess Jesus Christ as Lord**
  (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Be Baptized for Forgiveness**
  (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)
- **Remain Obedient**
  (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9)