

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Philippians 2:12-18

Welcome back and here we go! Today we talk about what it looks like to work out our own salvation. I mean it sounds easy enough, right? Just follow God's rules and we'll be cool! No problem. But the truth is we are still works in progress. *Philippians 1:6* ---- our first lesson!

Philippians 2:12-18

- 1) How do you work out your own salvation?

Working out: the Greek word for work literally describes "mining". You are God's mine of treasure. Imagine a diamond in the rough. Our lives and life experiences are the rough ----- with all the opportunities to be angry, to hate, to lose hope in people, in circumstances, in ourselves.

Yet, we have to make decisions daily to follow God. This next section is from Grace Notes:

"with fear" - PHOBOS. The word is translated "respect" in Ephesians 5:33 and refers to "respect" or "reverence". ...

"trembling" - TROMOS. This does not mean that you shake with fear when the boss walks by. This refers to maximum exertion on the job, digging in and working until the job is finished, whatever it takes.

The combination of PHOBOS and TROMOS was used to mean "great zeal", the emotion that you have preceding the big game, a combination of stage fright and determination to succeed.

- 2) How does God empower you to do better?

Probably short answers here, especially if we struggle to do better. "Do better" does not mean do what you are already doing. It means "DO BETTER".

Philippians 2:14-15

"Do all things without complaining" seems unreasonable. There's a lot to complain about.

- 3) What would complaining and disputing look like from someone similar to you?

God has empowered us to *do better* and we can, but first we need honesty, at least to ourselves, because the next scripture challenge is even more blessed and daunting.....

Become blameless and harmless children of God without fault! Clearly, the mental attitude of not complaining or disputing leads to at least a ***harmless child of God***.

4) What is the #1 way you kill your own witness?

Again, to be ***blameless and harmless***.... well.... we must ***work out our own salvation***. That is what we are doing now. It might be uncomfortable.

But we are trying to get better, not stay the same.

We are ***in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation***.

Ephesians 2:1-10

We were, maybe are, that person now. Hopefully not, but in truth, Philippians goes on to say we are to shine as lights in the world. Lights are beacons.

Today, like every day, presents opportunities to work out some more of yourself and Paul tells us how. By ***holding fast to the word of life***.

5) How are you a light to others?

We should be aware of how we are affecting others. Each of us has a responsibility to serve in a sacrificial way. That is the Christian way. The giving of self, of time.

Paul says

Philippians 2:16-18

His life is being poured out. Think of sand and each grain, or wine and each drop, representing your lifespan. To pour out your life is to sacrifice of yourself.

6) How is your life being poured out?

Next week: Like-minded – Philippians 2:19-29