



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 16

Implication of Salvation

Philippians 2:12-13, *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; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

Work out your salvation.

Paul says to these Philippian believers: you've got to work out your salvation.

What does this mean?

People have confused by this statement.

- Some people think that mean work for your salvation.
- Some people think it means work at your salvation.
- Some people might think it means work up your salvation.

But salvation is not by works!

Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Romans 3:21-24, *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

You don't work for your salvation.

There is no salvation by works.

So, Paul is not saying, "Work for, work at, work up your salvation." but "Work out."

Means to bring something to fulfilment, to fullness or completion.

The salvation that is in you, needs to be brought out all the way to its fulfilment, to its fullness. It is a command for sustained effort and diligence in working out what has already been planted within.

1. Work out what God had put it in

Analogy:

Roman world they know mining the rich minerals from the mines.

The mines are owned by you. There are precious metals, valuable with its full potential and richness is in there but it needs to be mined out.

Same way God had deposited such a valuable imperishable material within you when you were saved but that needs to be brought out.

You ought to mine out of your life what God has richly deposited there in the matter of salvation.

I am to mine it out.

I am to produce such precious nuggets of personal character from what God has planted in me in my salvation.

So, to work out in daily conduct what God has put in. I am to mine out what is already mine. Day-to-day holy living.

Paul says, “work out your salvation,” he is saying you have got to do it. There is commitment.

Romans 6:19, *I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.*

You have the responsibility to present all your human faculties to patterns of righteousness in the process of sanctification.

It is just not just a passive response but very active aggressive pursuit of obedience.

2 Corinthians 7:1, *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Ephesians 4:1, *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,*

Colossians 3:12-14, *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

All these scriptures imply that we have a responsibility. If it was just the yielded life, then why is he telling us to do that?

We are called to holy living on a daily basis, to work out what is in us, to bring the precious silver that is in us by salvation to the outside that God may be honoured and glorified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

We can see from these scriptures it takes lot of effort.

- running,
- boxing,
- punching his own body,
- Self-denying.

Tremendous effort.

When Paul finishing his life, he wrote to his spiritual son.

2 Timothy 4:6, *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

2 Corinthians 10:4, *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

Paul was involved in a great effort, a great struggle.

Philippians 3:12, *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*

Paul is pressing, moving, running, and fighting.

Philippians 3:13, *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*

Paul is pressing, moving, disciplined, under control, and making maximum effort.

Paul beating his body into subjection, protecting his mind, making the members of his body to conform to the divine standard.

Tremendous commitment and effort.

1 Timothy 4:15, *Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*

Take pains in the spiritual elements of life.

1 Timothy 6:12, *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

Summary:

To live on the outside what God has done on the inside, to pursue godliness, piety, holiness, obedience in your life on the outside.

2. Pursue to fullness

Not just work out your salvation but work toward that moment when you will see Christ and receive the end of your faith, even the fullness of salvation.

Salvation comes in three dimensions.

- Past,
- Present, and
- Future.

Those of us who are Christians have been saved.

There was a moment in time in which we were translated out of darkness into light.

- We left the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.
- We went from death to life.
- We went from sin to righteousness.
- We went from being the children of the devil to be the children of God.

We were saved, our souls were saved, we were made new creations.

There is also a sense in which we are being saved right now. We are in the process of being saved.

God is continually cleansing us from all sin. It isn't just a past act with no future implications and it is an on-going thing.

We were saved, and we are being saved, that is the keeping power, and we will be saved.

We are waiting for the full salvation, even the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 13:11, *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

What salvation?

The final aspect of your salvation, it comes in three dimensions.

Paul was saying that work your salvation out and work it out on until the time of the fullness of your salvation when you see the Lord Himself.

1 Timothy 6:12, *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

You are called unto that final feature of salvation, so lay hold of it and pursue it.

Are we not eternally secured?

Then why we should pursue?

The Bible teaches eternal security, but it also teaches the responsibility of the perseverance of the saints.

Who wrote the Philippians?

God and Paul.

When you were saved was it God or was it you?

It was all God and it was all of you committing yourself.

Jesus is all God and all man. The Christian life is all of me and all of Him.

Our guarantee of eternal life is all of God's power in securing us and all of perseverance energized by the Spirit of God within us that moves toward that day.

1 Timothy 4:16, *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

The Christian is secure. We can see eternal security in Romans 8.

But without the perseverance of the saint's eternal security doesn't exist.

True believers work out their salvation on the outside with continuity until the time when they are glorified.

Concept of perseverance.

Matthew 24:13, *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

Acts 13:43, *Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.*

Acts 14:22, *strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

God will keep them but from their side they must persevere.

- ✓ From God's view He holds them,
- ✓ From man's view there must be perseverance.

Romans 2:7, *"To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honour and immortality, God gives eternal life."*

God gives eternal life to those who persevere. So, you believe, the salvation goes in, then you work that salvation out, and persevering all the way to the end.

Colossians 1:23, *if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

You are saved if indeed you continue in the faith, firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

Hebrews 3:14, *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*

Hebrews 10:38, *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."*

- ❖ Now, when Paul says work out your salvation, he is saying get on the outside what is on the inside.
- ❖ Not only that in the moment, but continually.
- ❖ By continually doing that, you will literally work your salvation to its ultimate completion and fulfilment.

Conclusion:

Philippians 3:7-8, *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ*

V 7, Paul says that I counted all things as lost for the sake of Christ.

V 8, “to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

He is saved no question.

Philippians 3:10-11, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Don't you already have that?

Didn't you get that when you were saved?

Yes, but I must persevere to the end in faith.

Philippians 3:12, *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*

What a complicated statement to the human mind. You are trying to lay hold of something for which God laid hold of you.

What you're saying is: “I am trying to attain what God gave me.”

Philippians 3:13-14, *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those*

things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul says that we must persevere. There is an upward call! I press on!!

We must have this attitude; we must persevere.

We must keep moving toward that day.

Paul says that work on the outside what God has put on the inside and continue faithfully to live the Christian life all the way to the end until the upward call.

That is the command.

That is effort from your side.

That's the Christian working out.