

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Philippians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Philippians 2:12-18 – working out your own salvation

Today's Message:

"Spiritual Growth"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were reminded of how few doctrinal truths surpass the humility of Jesus Christ. Unity in the body of Christ and in our personal relationships requires humility, and Jesus Christ is our example. Today, the Holy Spirit will teach us about our responsibility to not just “set it and forget it” as we approach our Christian life but **WORK OUT** our own salvation with fear and trembling. This is not to be confused with how we get saved which is by grace through faith in Christ alone. This is after salvation... and relates to how you ought to live. God has given clear instructions. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Philippians 2:12-18

A. Your Responsibility – a command to grow up in Christ for His sake.

1. Paul exhorted the believers to take responsibility for their **OWN** spiritual growth.

Important Note

Many put the responsibility of spiritual growth on others. **God holds you accountable.**

- **Philippians 2:12** – ... as ye 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.
- **1 Corinthians 9:24** – ... So run, that YE MAY OBTAIN. (the prize is the context!)

Key elements of the command:

- **WORK out** Spiritual fitness; requires diligence and faithfulness
- **YOUR own** You are responsible for you; you must take ownership
- **FEAR and trembling** Serious responsibility; not to be taken lightly or belittled

Personal Application

Are you growing up in Christ? What is your next step? What action must you take? It is not an option—it is a command to be obeyed. God is not willing that any perish!

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments:** for this is the whole duty of man.

2. Paul reminded the believers that God is working in them – for His **PLEASURE**.

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD hath made all things for himself...

Luke 22:42

... nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

- **Philippians 2:13** – For it is **God which worketh in you ...** both TO WILL and TO DO of **HIS GOOD PLEASURE**.
- **Philippians 1:6** – ... **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it...**
- **Ephesians 1:5** – ... adoption of children... **according to the good pleasure of his will,**
- **Ephesians 1:9** – ... **according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:**
- **Revelation 4:11** – ... and **for thy pleasure they are and were CREATED.**

“For it is God which worketh in you... of his good pleasure.”

As we get our eyes on others and seek to care and help them, we realize that there is something bigger that God has planned for our life. It is not about what you want to do but rather what He wants to do with your life? You must grow up for His sake and glory!

B. Your Attitude – a command to have a right heart, forsaking rebellion.

3. Paul exhorted the believers to immediately stop their **REBELLION** against God.

W1828 “All”

Every one, or the whole number of particulars.

1 Corinth 10:10

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

- **Philippians 2:14** – Do all things *WITHOUT murmurings and disputings*;
- **Philippians 2:3** – Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory... in lowliness of mind...

Warning signs of heart issues with God:

- **Murmurings** Uttering complaints in a low or sullen voice; grumbling; complaining.
- **Disputings** The act of contending by words or arguments; controversy; altercation.

Scripture Comparisons

- **Murmurings** *Exodus 16:7,8; Numbers 14:27; Psalm 106:25; Mark 14:5; Jude 16*
- **Disputings** *Prov 13:10; 15:17, 18; Mark 9:33, 34; Acts 15:2, 7, 39; Rom 12:18; 1 Corinth 3:3; 13:11; Gal 5:15, 16; Eph 4:31, 32; 1 Thess 5:13, 15*

The children of Israel:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>What NOT to do</u>	<u>What to do</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Num 11:1-6; 21:5	Complaining about God’s provision	Thanking God daily	1 Thess 5:18
Num 14:1-5	Arguing over God’s plan	Trusting God’s direction	Prov 3:5-6
Num 16:1-11	Stirring up division	Promoting unity	Eph 4:3
Exodus 16:1-8	Blaming leadership for difficulties	Praying for leaders	Heb 13:17
Psalm 106:7	Forgetting past deliverance	Remembering God’s faithfulness	Psalm 103:2

Personal Application

Are you growing up in Christ? Do you act like a child? What action must you take? It is not an option—it is a command to be obeyed. God is not willing that any perish!

C. Your Necessity – the lost world desperately needs to see Christ’s light!

4. Paul exhorted the believers to live right for Christ in the midst of a **WICKED** world.

W1828 “Necessity”

That which must be and cannot be otherwise.

Matthew 10:16

Behold, I send you forth **as sheep in the midst of wolves**: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

- **Philippians 2:15** – That ye may be blameless and harmless, **the sons of God**, without rebuke, **in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation**, **AMONG WHOM YE SHINE AS LIGHTS** in the world;
- **Philippians 2:16** – **Holding forth** the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ...

Distinguishing Characteristics of Christians (in contrast to the lost world)

- **Blameless** Without fault; innocent; John the Baptist’s parents (**Lk 1:6**)
- **Harmless** Not hurtful or injurious; as Christ (**Heb 7:26**); as doves (**Mt 10:16**)
- **Without rebuke** To reprove for a fault; to afflict for correction; (**Luke 17:3**)
- **Crooked** Winding in moral conduct; froward; perverse; wandering from duty
- **Perverse** Literally, turned aside; obstinate in the wrong; stubborn; untractable
- **Shine as lights** To be distinguished; guiding, revealing, comforting, warning, attracting
- **Holding forth** Offer to others; hold fast; display openly; our lives are the **PLATFORM!**

“...and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy and rejoice...”

What a perspective! We must advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ and magnify Him at all costs... Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ... Esteem other better than ourselves... Live a life that reflects the light of Jesus Christ so that the lost world can be saved! Others! Others!